



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines


Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

The image shows the front cover of an old book. The cover is decorated with a marbled paper pattern, featuring large, irregular, dark greenish-grey shapes outlined by thin, reddish-brown veins. The spine of the book, visible on the left, is bound in a dark brown, textured material, possibly leather or cloth. In the bottom left corner of the front cover, there is a small, rectangular, cream-colored label with a decorative scalloped border. The label contains handwritten text in dark ink.

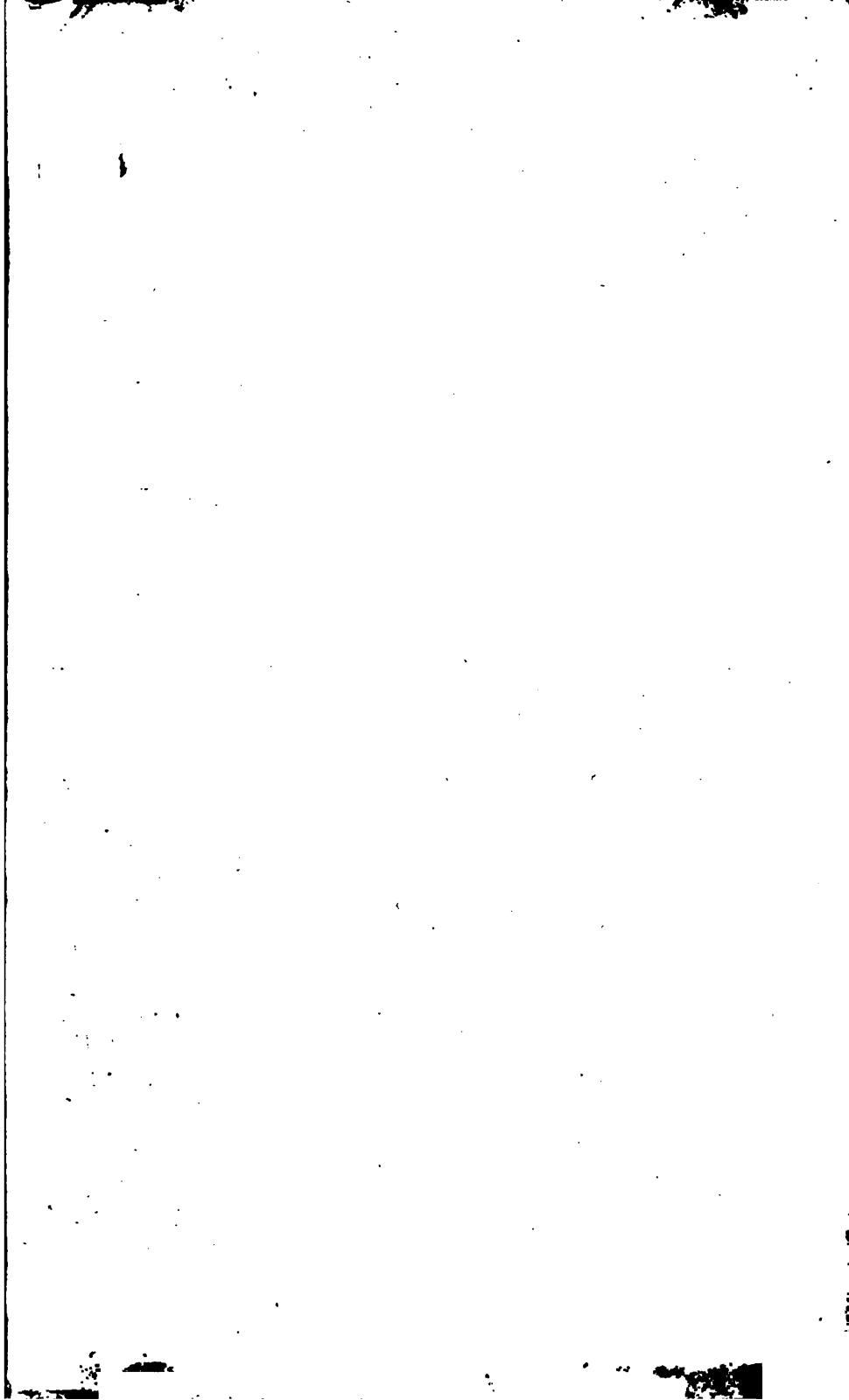
G. A. Antim

8° 23

Andrew Hay Morrison  
will pay down  
8407 £11/-

Bt. from Henry & Co.

G. Adds. Antism 8° 23



15/-

3742  $\frac{c}{A}$



572  
*Hodgson*  
1848

HISTORY

OF

THE RISE AND PROGRESS

OF

BELFAST,

AND

ANNALS

OF

THE COUNTY ANTRIM,

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TILL THE PRESENT TIME.

COMPILED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC RECORDS,

BY

JAMES ADAIR PILSON;

WITH

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE

MONASTIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTY, A LIST OF  
THE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES,  
SOVEREIGNS OF BELFAST,  
&c., &c.

---

BELFAST:

HODGSON, GREER, M'COMB, PHILLIPS, POLLOCK, LAMONT,  
AND HENDERSON. BALLYMENA: DUGAN AND WHITE.  
ARMAGH: M'WATTERS. DUBLIN: WM. CURRY, JUN.  
& CO. LONDON: LONGMAN & CO., &c. &c. &c.

1846.



JOHN MULLEN, PRINTER, JOY'S ENTRY, HIGH-STREET, BELFAST.



TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
JOHN BRUCE RICHARD,  
VISCOUNT O'NEILL,  
CONSTABLE OF DUBLIN CASTLE,  
AND  
ADMIRAL OF THE NORTH COAST OF ULSTER,  
 &c., &c., &c.

MY LORD,

IN sending forth the following pages to an enlightened public, I have taken the liberty to address them to your Lordship, knowing, as I do, that in the localities of which they treat, there is no name so respected and esteemed as yours, and that for the most ostensible reasons.

Your Lordship's long and intimate connexion with a people, whom you represented in the Imperial Legislature, with so much honour and fidelity, for such a number of years,---your present station as a Peer of Parliament,---your position as one of the most extensive Landed Proprietors in the County,---and, withal, the *eclat* of your name, give you, among the population of this great County, a preponderating influence, which no Peer or Commoner can by any possibility attain.

Descended as your Lordship is from a long line of regal ancestry, possessed of all those amiable quali-

IV.

ties of both head and heart, which distinguish alike the real christian and true philanthropist,---honoured in public, and adored in private life, it would be, indeed, difficult to find a name so highly esteemed, so truly and duly venerated.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's very obedient,

Humble servant,

JAMES ADAIR PILSON.

## PREFACE.

---

THE rapid and gigantic progress which Belfast is making in the onward march of all the improvements of this extraordinary improving age,—the important position which it has already attained in the political, commercial, and literary world,—the wealth, honour, and independence of its “many merchants and men of note,” cannot fail in making a History of its Rise and Progress an acceptable publication at the present time.

In this work, the origin of Belfast, and its civil and political history, as well as a succinct and accurate detail of the past and present state of its commerce, manufactures, literary spirit; religious, charitable, and benevolent institutions, are given upon the most authentic data.

In the Annals of the County Antrim will be found a faithful record of every important event which has occurred within its limits, from the earliest period to the present day, being, in fact, a Chronological Cyclopedia of its Ecclesiastical and Military Antiquities, History, Topography, and Statistics.



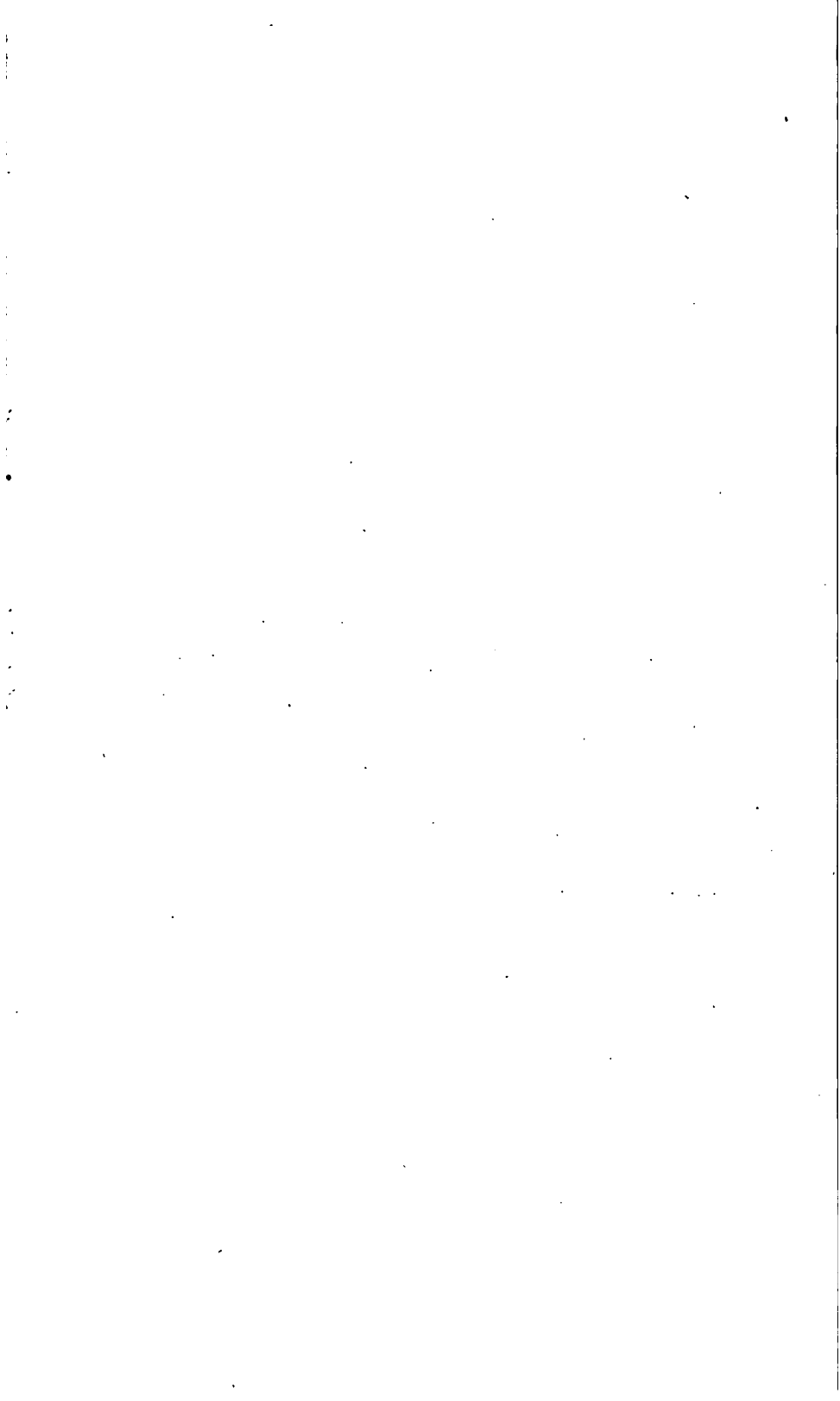
## LIST OF AUTHORITIES

IN WHICH

THE FACTS RECORDED IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES WILL BE FOUND.

---

*Spencer's View of the State of Ireland,*  
*Sir James Ware's Antiquities,*  
*M<sup>r</sup> Geoghegan's History of Ireland,*  
*Archdall's Monasticon,*  
*Lodge's Peerage,*  
*The Publications of the Irish Archæological Society,*  
*Dubourdieu's Statistical Survey of the County of Antrim,*  
*Gough's Camden,*  
*Hollinshed's Chronicle,*  
*Annals of the Four Masters,*  
*Fynes Moryson's History of Ireland,*  
*Lawson's History of the Rebellion of 1641,*  
*Hamilton's Letters on the Northern coast of Antrim.*  
*Historical Collections of Belfast,*  
*Cox's History of Ireland,*  
*M<sup>r</sup> Skimmin's History of Carrickfergus.*  
*Sir Thomas Molyneux's Discourse,*  
*Lanigan's Ecclesiastical History of Ireland,*  
*Rushton's Historical Collections.*



# HISTORY

OF THE

## RISE AND PROGRESS OF BELFAST,

&c., &c.

---

### SITE AND VICINITY.

THE town of Belfast, the metropolis of Ulster, is situated in lat.  $54^{\circ} 36'$ , north; and in long.  $5^{\circ} 54'$ , west from Greenwich. It stands at the southren extremity of Carrickfergus Bay, (Belfast Lough,) the *Vinderius* of Ptolomey, and at the debouch of the river Lagan. It is extremely low in situation, but well adapted for all the purposes of the important trade of which it is now the emporium. A chain of mountains, of considerable height and bold outline, less than two miles distant to the north and west, overhang the town, and bestow uncommon grandeur on its general appearance.

Most of the entire site of the town, as well as all the site of the large suburb of Ballymacarrett, is low, flat, and alluvial; and clearly indicates that, at no very remote period, it was conquered from the dominion of the tide. The lowness and flatness of the site, the compactness and regularity of the street alignment, and the almost total absence of either tower, dome, or spire, render the exterior aspect of the town tame and unpromising. But, seen up the Lough at night, it looks like a focus and divergence of light and life amidst a world of darkness; and seen from adjacent high grounds by day, it appears a vast, orderly, tasteful assemblage of uniform streets, neat large houses, pretending mansions, and bulky abodes of manufacture and traffic. The Lagan makes its meandering sweep to the right, cottages smile, animated nature exults, and trees tuft the green fields on the foreground; the crowded



harbour with its little forest of masts, and the dense and large phalanx of houses, bristled over with chimneys as with spears, and sending up towering and lofty stalk-like ensigns of ambition, expand on the left of the middle ground; and the bold, acclivitous hills, flowing, yet broken in outline, exquisitely diversified in dress and contour, and so intersected by ravine and depression as to seem almost an array of separate summits, start speedily up in the back ground, partly to cut an undulated sky-line, and partly to blend with a far-away and filmy perspective. The environs of the town, both immediate and remote, abound in the amenities of landscape, and blend in extended views, with a great variety of such features and groupings as belong strictly to the beautiful, and yet are nearly allied to the grand.

There are no remains of antiquity in the town; near Strandmills, on the Lagan, was an ancient chapel, called *Capella de Kilpatrick*; on the summit of a hill, in Upper Malone, was the *Capella de Crookmuck*; near Callender's Fort, on the Falls-road, about two miles from the town, was the chapel of *Cranock*, traces of the foundation of which, and a large cemetery are still remaining; and on the same road the chapel of *Kilwee*, where numerous elegantly carved crosses and other sepulchral monuments have been found. About three miles on the Carrickfergus road, is a small fragment of an ancient fortress called Greencastle; in Upper Malone was an extensive fort called Castle Cam or Freestone Castle, on the site of which the elegant mansion of Malone House has been erected; at a short distance on the left of the road to Shaw's bridge are seen the foundations of a third fort; in the grounds of Malone, near Lismoine, are the remains of a fourth, and in the Roman Catholic burying-ground of Friar's Bush are those of a fifth.

Among the most curious relics of antiquity are the caves in various places, found in the earth and in the hard limestone rock; of the former three were discovered in 1792, at Wolf Hill, the largest of which is eight yards long and one yard wide, with four small chambers diverging from it; on the side of a small hill, in the townland of Ballymargy, is one of larger dimensions, and in a more perfect state, with two

entrances ; and near Hannahstown is one still larger, which, since 1798, has been closed, having, at that time, been a place of concealment for arms. Three large caves, which give name to the mountain Cave Hill, are all formed in the perpendicular face of an immense range of basaltic rocks ; the lowest is twenty-one feet long, eighteen wide, and from seven to ten feet in height ; above this is another, ten feet long, seven feet wide, and six in height ; and above that is a third, said to be divided into two unequal parts, each of which is more extensive than the largest of the other caves ; but the ascent is fraught with so much danger that few venture to visit it.

The large ramparts of earth called Rathes or Forts, are also numerous ; of these the most extensive is *Mac Art's Fort*, on the summit of the Cave Hill, protected on one side by a precipice, and on the others by a single ditch of great depth, and a vallum of large dimensions ; the enclosed area is nearly level, and, from the height of the mountain, commands a view of vast extent, variety, and beauty, including the Isle of Man, the shores and mountains of Scotland, and a large portion of the counties of Antrim, Down, Armagh, Derry, and Donegal. Near the base of Squire's Hill are many smaller raths, and two of large dimensions, almost at the summit of Blackmountain ; and near the shore of the Lough, within the grounds of Fort William, is an encampment seventy feet square, surrounded by a deep fosse, and defended by a bastion at each angle ; it is said to have been thrown up by King William in 1690, hence the name of the mansion and grounds of "Fort William ;" near it is another intrenchment of ruder construction.

There are two large Cairns on the Black mountain, in one of which, in 1829, was found a large urn filled with calcined human bones, a spear head, and two ornaments of brass ; there is also a cairn on the Cave Hill, and one on Squire's Hill. A great number of stone and flint hatchets, arrow-heads of flint, brazen celts, and querns or hand mill-stones, have been found in the vicinity.

The immediate environs of the town are rich in gardens, parks, mansions, villas, rural resorts, romantic hamlets, sea-

bathing retreats, and the whitened fields and neat houses of linen bleachers. Among the gentlemen's seats, conspicuous for their elegance, are Ormeau, the residence of the Marquis of Donegall; Belvoir, of Sir R. Bateson, Bart; Purdysburn, of Robert Batt, Esq.; Orangefield, of R. B. B. Houston, Esq; Turf Lodge, of John Kane, Esq.; Down and Connor House, of the Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore; Ardoyne, of Michael Andrews, Esq; Ballydrain, of Hugh Montgomery, Esq; Ballysillan, of John F. Ferguson, Esq.; Beechmount, of Lewis Reford, Esq.; Cromac, of T. Garret, Esq.; Duncairn, of A. J. Macrory, Esq.; the Falls, of John Sinclair, Esq.; Fort William, of G. Langtry, Esq.; Glenalena, of William Orr, Esq.; Glenville, of Mrs. M'Cance; the Grove, of William Simms, Esq.; Jennymount, of Robert Thompson, Esq.; Ligoneil, of Alexander Stewart, Esq.; Lismoine, of R. Callwell, Esq.; Low Wood, of J. Thomson, Esq.; Malone House, of William W. Legge, Esq.; Mount Collyer, of Andrew Mulholland, Esq.; Mount Vernon, of Hill Hamilton, Esq.; New Forge, of J. Ferguson, Esq.; Parkmount, of John M'Neile, Esq.; Old Park, of W. H. Lyons, Esq.; Sea-view, of J. Boomer, Esq.; Graymount, of William Gray, Esq.; Springfield, of J. Stevenson, Esq.; Strandmills, of Thomas G. Batt, Esq.; Suffolk, of William S. M'Cance, Esq.; Wheatfield, of J. Blair, Esq.; Willmount, of J. Stewart, Esq.; Wolf Hill, of Mrs. Thompson; Woodburn, of M. Charley, Esq.; Finaghy, of J. Charley, Esq.; Skeigoneil, of J. Steen, Esq.; Fortfield, of W. G. Johnson, Esq.; Belvidere, of A. Durham, Esq.; Edenderry, of Charles Dunlop, Esq.; Ballymenoch, of T. Gregg, Esq.; Stormount, of Mrs. Cleland; Mertoun, of John Harrison, Esq.; Eglantine Hill, of Thomas Macdonnell, Esq.; Annadale, of Alexander M'Donnell, Esq.; Maryville, of John Heron, Esq.; Greenfield, of Thomas Ferguson, Esq.; Beechpark, Cherryville, Belmont, Bloomfield, Glenbank, the Lodge, &c. &c.

#### HISTORY.

THE origin of the town of Belfast, which at present holds so high a rank in the commercial, as well as the literary and political world, is involved in obscurity; it is, however, com-

paratively a modern town ; and, unlike the majority of other Irish cities and towns, has no claim to ecclesiastical antiquity, or monkish patronage, for its foundation.

The Celtic or Irish name of the locality in which the present town of Belfast is situated was *Beal-na-Fear-sad*, which signifies *the mouth of a ford*, for near the present Queen's bridge was formerly a ford at low water, and a ferry at full tide.

Reasonable conjectures may be formed of the condition of the place previous to, and for some time after, the arrival of the English. It is probable that a village existed here, consisting only of the mud dwellings of the ferry-men, or those concerned in the accommodation of the few travellers visiting a wild and unfrequented part of the country.

Soon after the arrival of the English, Sir John de Courcy received a grant of all Ulster, on condition of his subjugating it. With this intention, in 1177, he invaded a considerable part of the province, erecting many castles for the security of his precarious acquisitions. There is no historic record that the castle of Belfast was among the number, but is supposed to have been erected by him, or some of his followers. It is certain, however, that as the power of the English extended, this place, from its advantageous situation, between the Anglo-Norman colony, at Carrickfergus, and their possessions in the Ards, (county Down), would soon attract the attention of a resolute enemy.

We have been unable to trace any mention of this town higher than the reign of Edward II., at which period the native Irish, galled by the tyranny of the English government, proposed an invasion to the Scots, and offered the most alluring proposals to Edward Bruce, for his assistance in the utter expulsion of the English colonists.

Accordingly, on the 2d of May, 1315, Edward Bruce, having accepted the invitation, landed at the peninsula of Curran, near Larne, with an army of 6,000 men, and being joined by the Irish chieftains, fell with the fury of a devouring tempest on the English settlements in that quarter.

At the outset, nothing was able to resist his progress, and Belfast, amongst other "very good towns and strongholds,"

was destroyed. "Then," says Spencer, in his View of the State of Ireland, "the said Edward le Bruce spoiled and burnt all the old English pale inhabitants, and sacked and ruined all cities and corporate towns. For he wasted BELFAST, Greencastle, &c., and many other very good towns and strongholds, and rooted out the noble families of the Audlies, Talbots, Tuchots, Chamberlaines, Maundevilles, and the Savages out of the Ards."

Though the enterprize of Bruce in the end proved abortive, its consequences were permanent and disastrous. The English power being now almost destroyed in Ulster, and William de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, having been murdered at the "Fords of Belfast," the Irish chieftains took advantage of the opportunity which the confusion created by this event offered, rose suddenly in arms; and the sept of the O'Nials crossing the river Bann, seized a great part of the county of Antrim, as well as Down, and falling on the English settlers, succeeded, notwithstanding a brave and powerful resistance, in almost totally extirpating them. The conquerors parcelled among themselves the extensive possessions which they had thus re-captured, and the entire district received the name of upper and lower Clan-Hugh-Boy (Clandeboy), from their chief, Hugh-Boy-O'Nial.

The Irish clans continued their victories, in extirpating the colonists, and so weakened their strength as to possess, for nearly two centuries, the principal sway in the province. Belfast, thus wasted, sunk under the Celtic domination to its original insignificance, though the castle was repaired at this juncture by the Irish chieftains.

But in the reign of Henry VII., and under the administration of Gerald, Earl of Kildare, the English power becoming again predominant, a reconquest of the northren stations, possessed by the Irish, was attempted on several occasions; Belfast was one of the places which required the presence of the Lord Deputy. Accordingly, we find it recorded that the Earl of Kildare, in 1503, made an expedition into Ulster, and took and destroyed the town and castle of Belfast, but the latter was soon after repaired and occupied by the Irish. In 1512, the Lord Deputy, Kildare, made a second incursion

into Ulster, when he again destroyed the castle of Belfast. After this second demolition, it remained for a number of years in a ruinous and neglected state; neither party, it is probable, being sufficiently strong to take possession of, and retain, so important a post.

The brief relations of the seizure or destruction of the castle, from time to time, are the only materials from which we can deduce the history of the town, at this early period; and after the abandonment of the fortress, in 1512, it is not unlikely that the few rude habitations which surrounded it, experienced a similar fate. In the forty years which succeeded the last expedition of the Earl of Kildare, this place must have been very defenceless, and particularly exposed to the inroads of contending parties. There is reason to suppose, from the following curious note, in *Hollinshed's Chronicle*, that the calamitous effects of predatory warfare were experienced here to an unmitigated extent:—"In 1545, the Earl of Ormond marched with his soldiers from Carrickfergus to Belfast, which is an arm of the sea, about a quarter of a mile broad, or little less, and then waded over on foot." No mention is here made of either town or castle, which might serve for security or refuge, and the sentence, though very ambiguous, would imply their non-existence.

Belfast, however, was not entirely forgotten, and in consequence of the alarming progress of O'Nial in the north, the Lord Deputy, Sir James Crofts, made an expedition into Ulster, in the year 1552, when he repaired and garrisoned the castle. On the march, when returning to Dublin, his army was routed, with great slaughter, by Shane O'Nial, Baren of Dungannon, son of the Earl of Tyrone; but the garrison which had been left is not said to have been molested. On the 28th of the December following, Hugh O'Nial Oge, of Clandeboy, submitted to the Lords Justices, swore allegiance, and freely covenanted by indenture to forfeit all his possessions, if he ever relapsed again, whereupon the King, Edward VI., granted to him the abbey of Carrickfergus, the castle of Belfast, and other extensive possessions. This Chieftain was not long permitted to enjoy his new dignity, for he was killed in 1555, by a party of Scots, in one of

their numerous incursions into this province, and his territories, with the exception of the castle of Belfast, were ceded by the Lord Deputy and Council to other branches of the sept of O'Nial. The castle of Belfast was then granted to Randolphus Lane, an Englishman, who appears to have possessed only a nominal title, the northern Irish being again so powerful and so turbulent as to render such a place as Belfast of little advantage. In the 13th year of the reign of Elizabeth, this castle, with valuable tracts of land, was granted to Sir Thomas Smith and his son, under several very advantageous stipulations. Owing, however, to the uncertainty which attended the tenure of land, and some other mischances, it afterwards appeared, that Sir Thomas did not derive much benefit from these grants. During the time that he retained this castle, a skirmish took place here, in 1575, between the English and Irish, in which the former were commanded by Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy.

In 1582, Sir John Perrot presented to Queen Elizabeth his plan for the suppression of the rebellion in and well-governing of Ireland, in which he strongly recommended the cutting down of the woods for the use of the navy, and the settlement of shipwrights, in the most convenient places. The very excellent and commodious situation of Belfast, therefore, more than its size, must have induced Sir John to single it out as the "best and most convenient place in Ulster, for the establishment of ship building." He was, no doubt, still further influenced in his choice by the extensive forests which grew in the neighbourhood of the town, a circumstance which is strongly evidenced, by an order of Lord Deputy Grey, in 1581, to permit the mayor and inhabitants of Carrickfergus, to convey timber from "the woods of Belfast," for the purpose of finishing their church; this order is addressed to the "Lord of the Woods," which was in all probability, an office of considerable importance. The means proposed by Sir John Perrot were ineffectual, as Belfast was not within the English pale. It is curious to reflect, that a town, which is at present the most important in Ulster, should have been, little more than two centuries ago, in undisturbed possession of the native Irish, and that no record or docu-

ment should exist, to inform us of its size and population at that period.

In the reign of James I., Sir Thomas Smith was required to fulfil the agreement by which he held the castle of Belfast, but not making his appearance, his possessions escheated to the crown. The castle, town, and manor of Belfast, with large estates, were granted by King James, in 1612, to Sir Arthur Chichester, then Lord Deputy, with the title of Baron Chichester, of Belfast. It is from that time we may date the rise and progress of this place. The town soon became more distinguished than the castle, though, as yet, it had acquired but little consequence in the general affairs of the country. It is omitted by Hollinshed, in his enumeration of the chief and haven towns in the counties of Down and Antrim, whilst places which are now mere fishing villages, are mentioned as among the chief towns of the kingdom. Belfast is marked, indeed, as an unimportant village, in Speed's maps, in 1610, but no further notice is taken of it by that author.

In the year 1613, however, the inhabitants were incorporated by charter from James I.; the corporation to consist of a sovereign, twelve burgesses, and commonality. A lord and constable of the castle were also added, the former office to be held by the Lord Chichester and his heirs.

The Earl of Strafford, in the year 1637, purchased from the corporation of Carrickfergus their privilege of importing commodities at one-third of the duties payable on goods at other places, and other monopolies which it enjoyed. This gave the first grand impulse to the rise of Belfast in a commercial point of view; the trade of Carrickfergus was immediately transferred hither, and the natural results of such an event were soon made obvious by its rising prosperity. But all improvements were, for a time, unhappily suspended, in consequence of the destructive wars in 1641, and the following years. Many of the inhabitants fled to Carrickfergus and other places on the news of the insurrection, but the insurgents, under Sir Conn Magennis, having been defeated in their attempts on Lisburn, Belfast was saved from destruction. On the 28th of November, however, Lisburn was a second time attacked by the Irish, under Sir Phelim O'Neil, Sir Conn



Magennis, and General Plunket, but, after doing considerable mischief, they were again repulsed, and deterred from further hostilities by a reinforcement which arrived the same night from Belfast. The preservation of the town, (which was now advancing rapidly in commercial importance,) when the principal part of the surrounding country was in possession of the Irish, is to be attributed to the failure of the insurgents in their assaults on Lisburn, which is confirmed by a letter from Donnel O'Cahan to Donotho O'Cahan, wherein the former says, in reference to Captain Lawson's successful operations, "and he (Lawson) was the first in these parts that opposed our cousin Sir Conn Magennis of entering Linegarvey, (Lisburn,) when the Lord Conway, his troop of horse, and all the town's people left it; and but for him *we had had Belfast* and most of these parts in possession." A malignant epidemic raged at this time all over the north of Ireland, and in the short space of four months carried off five thousand persons in Belfast and Malone.

The Lords Justices having appointed Sir Arthur Tyringham and Colonel Chichester commanders of the royal forces in the county of Antrim, a garrison was immediately stationed here. Early in the year 1642, active measures were taken for its further security. The sovereign was ordered to bring in a list of the men who were to form the train-band, and to have them enrolled as soldiers. It was agreed, at the same time, that, for completing the rampart, all such as had not made up their former rates should forthwith advance the stipulated sum, or be distrained for payment. For the further encouragement in that matter, Lord Chichester consented to make the draw-bridge and palisadoes, and the inhabitants to contribute a thousand days' work of a man, the soldiers also assisting in so necessary a defence. Assessors were appointed to levy labour, as well as money, within the town and liberties, the inhabitants being obliged to contribute certain regular sums to defray the expenses of fire and candles for the military.

In the following year, 1643, Colonel Chichester was appointed governor of Belfast by King Charles, and, at the same time, a royal grant of £1000 was made by the king for the

better fortifying of the town. Col. Chichester and the soldiers garrisoned in Belfast adhered to the royal interest, yet so general was the disaffection in the town and neighbourhood, that he was reduced, with the three regiments under his command, to the greatest privations, and solicited assistance of the Lord Lieutenant, from whom he received £300 for the protection of the town and garrison of Belfast against the Covenanters, who, it was apprehended, would commence hostilities in support of their principles and opinions.

Belfast was taken, however, at this juncture, not by force, but by treachery and stratagem. At the beginning of 1644, General Robert Munroe was invested by the Parliament with the command of all its forces in Ulster, and those who had not yet received the Covenant were required to submit to his authority. The English officers, however, were all averse to pay obedience to his order, and resolved to meet at Belfast for the purpose of deliberating on the steps which should be taken in consequence. Besides Colonel Chichester, the governor, there assembled at Belfast, on the evening of the 23rd of May, Sir James Montgomery, the Lords Montgomery and Blaney, Sir Robert Stewart, Col. Hill, Major Rawdon, Sir Joseph Jones, and Major Gore. Munroe being treacherously informed of their purpose, and favoured by the darkness of the night, marched to Belfast with 2,000 men, surprised the town, and compelled them to retire to Lisburn.

The inhabitants were now reduced to the greatest distress; Colonel Hume, who was made governor of the castle by the Parliament, with a stationary garrison of 400 men, imposed upon them heavy and very grievous taxes. For the maintenance of the garrison, the inhabitants were assessed every ten days, each householder being obliged to contribute, as a subsidy, either a shilling, or fourteen pounds of meal.

After the decapitation of Charles I., the presbytery of this place, having strongly expressed their abhorrence of the atrocity, were reproachfully answered by the poet Milton; and the Scottish forces of Ulster, having now, in common with their countrymen, the Covenanters, embraced the royal cause, the garrison kept possession of the town for the king. But in 1648, General Monk seized the Scottish commander, Mun-

roe, and sent him prisoner to England, and, having assaulted Belfast, again reduced it under the controul of the Parliament, who appointed Colonel Maxwell governor. In 1649, the town was retaken by a clever manœuvre of Lord Montgomery. Maxwell, the parliamentary governor, knowing the weakness of the place, sent, with all haste, to request the immediate assistance of Lord Montgomery, not aware that he was a royalist. He obeyed the command, but when his troops had gained admittance, and were disposed of in the most advantageous situations for attack or defence, he produced his commission as General-Governor in Ulster, from the king, and commanded Col. Maxwell and his garrison to submit. The parliamentarians, perceiving their inability to defend the place, were compelled to lay down their arms. Soon after this event, Cromwell arrived in Ireland, and after the massacre at Drogheda, dispatched Colonel Venables to reduce Belfast, in which he succeeded. This was the fourth time, in the space of six years, that Belfast had been besieged, and this was the only occasion on which it offered any material resistance. Venables sat four days before the town, which only capitulated upon articles.

After this period no event, properly historical, appears to have occurred, for a considerable time, in Belfast. In the year 1688, a new charter was issued by King James II., by which the privileges of the corporation were much abridged, and the number of burgesses increased to thirty-five, nineteen of whom were Roman Catholics, and the remainder Protestants, but the latter never interfered in the business of the town by virtue of their office.

On the landing of Duke Schomberg, at Bangor, October 16th, 1689, with an army of 10,000 men, the Irish forces evacuated the town, of which Colonel Wharton took possession in the name of King William. On the 14th June, 1690, the king arrived in person, and issued a proclamation from his "Court at Belfast," prohibiting the army to lay waste the country. His majesty remained here for five days, and sojourned at the house of Sir William Franklin, the site of which is now occupied by the Donegall Arms Hotel, whence he proceeded to the Boyne, by way of Hillsborough, and, on

his march, issued an order to the collector of customs at Belfast, to pay £1,200 per annum to the Presbyterian ministers of Ulster, which formed the origin of the *Regium Donum* at present paid to that body.

The castle of Belfast was destroyed by an accidental fire in 1708, and was never afterwards rebuilt. In 1715, on the threatened invasion of the Pretender, the inhabitants formed themselves into Volunteer corps, for the better defence of the country, and in 1745, when a similar project was attempted, they again had recourse to arms. In 1760, by their prompt muster, in conjunction with the people of the surrounding country, they saved their town from the threatened attack of the French, under Thurot, who had effected a landing at Kilroot Point, near Carrickfergus, with the avowed intention of surprising Belfast. The formation of the Irish Volunteers induced all the principal young men of Belfast to accoutre themselves, and thus they assumed a formidable political attitude.

In March, 1793, the Volunteers were suppressed by proclamation. In a report of the Secret Committee of the House of Lords, at this period, a full account is given of a tumultuous spirit which had manifested itself in Belfast and the county of Antrim, fostered by various emanations from the press and by military display. Accordingly a proclamation was issued by the Lord Lieutenant, to the effect that no more armed associations should be raised, and that bodies of men should not appear in future, either in the town of Belfast or elsewhere, in military array. The proclamation stated, that great quantities of arms and gunpowder had been collected here—that bodies of men were exercised and drilled by night as well as by day,—and though their professed object was a redress of certain alleged grievances, yet their real intentions were of a much more aspiring nature, being nothing less than to dictate, not only to parliament, but to the government itself.

There were, at this period, four undisguised societies of United Irishmen in existence in Belfast; and, in the latter part of 1794, several additional societies, of a similar political character, were formed in the town. On the removal of Earl

Fitzwilliam, after his brief administration as Lord Lieutenant, in March, 1795, the 28th of that month was observed by the inhabitants as a day of national calamity, no counting-houses or shops being open, and all kinds of business for the day suspended. On the 10th of May, in the same year, delegates from seventy-two societies of United Irishmen, belonging to the counties of Antrim and Down, met in Belfast, and framed that extensive system of Committees which rendered their plans so remarkable and ingenious, and which so well suited their rising importance. In January, 1797, on the appearance of the French fleet off Bantry Bay, to assist the insurgents, the majority of the inhabitants agreed to take up arms, as yeomanry, in defence of their country.

In May, 1798, the insurrectionary movement having spread over the entire of the counties of Antrim and Down, martial law was proclaimed in the principal streets of Belfast, and four companies of yeomanry which had been formed here commenced permanent duty. The brass field-pieces which belonged to the Volunteers were all delivered up to General Nugent, military commander of the district, with the exception of one, which was soon after captured from the insurgents on their defeat at Antrim. On the intelligence that the insurgents had assembled in great force at Larne, every effort was made, by the proper authorities, to frustrate their intentions of opening a communication with their disaffected associates in Belfast. Sentinels were placed at the different outlets from the town, with rigid orders to permit no person to pass, except those going to and coming from market. A number of the inhabitants were, at the same time, formed into supplementary corps of yeomanry. When the insurrection broke out in the county of Down, many persons fled hither for security, from different parts of the country. While the troops were engaged with the insurgents at Ballynahinch, on the 12th and 13th of June, the shops were closed, and the inhabitants compelled to remain within doors. The cannonading was distinctly heard here, and after the defeat of the insurgents, in that quarter, the Belfast troop of yeoman cavalry published a declaration of loyalty.

Notwithstanding the powerful excitement which prevailed

towards the close of the 18th century, Belfast, although the centre of motion to the Northren Union, was preserved in peaceable subjection, by the precaution of government in placing in it a strong military force ; but the spirit of disaffection had diffused itself considerably, and seven individuals were executed here for treason. On the 17th of May, 1799, the last execution for high treason took place, soon after which the martial law was abolished. The Marquis of Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, arrived in Belfast on the 7th of October, upon which occasion he was presented by the sovereign and burgesses with an address in favour of the Union, which was then under the consideration of parliament. On the 1st of January, 1801, the Union Flag was hoisted at the Market-house, and a royal salute fired by the artillery in garrison, in consequence of the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland.

With the exception of commercial difficulties, from which, however, Belfast suffered less than any other town of equal importance in the kingdom, few circumstances have occurred in modern times to retard its progress ; and it is now the most flourishing town in Ireland, being the first in trade, and the fourth in extent and population, celebrated alike for its manufactures and commerce, and for the public spirit of its inhabitants in the pursuit of literature and science, and in the support of charitable and other benevolent institutions.

#### EARLY INTERIOR ASPECT.

In 1581, Belfast was surrounded by woods, forests, and morasses. In 1643 it was enclosed, on the land side, by a wall or rampart, and wet ditch, and entered by gates. In 1662 it contained only one hundred and fifty dwelling-houses, chiefly mud-wall, and thatched with straw. These were arranged into five streets, and a like number of lanes or rows. " At the time of the Revolution," (1688) says Wakefield, " Belfast contained a very few streets, and the houses, a small number excepted, were thatched with straw." In 1720 all the houses in Bridge street were of this description. In 1757 it contained 1,779 houses, and 8,549 inhabitants, 7,993 of whom were Protestants, and 556 Roman Catholics. A river formerly coursed

its way down High-street, and was crossed by a number of frail bridges, the principal one of which was situated opposite Bridge-street. On each side of this river dealers exposed their goods for sale, under the shade of some lofty trees which adorned its banks. There are a great many interesting circumstances connected with the early condition of the town which must be reserved for, and will be found under, the respective heads of the different sections of this work.

#### MODERN INTERIOR ASPECT.

The town, exclusive of Ballymacarrett, and of straggling edificed outskirts, is about an Irish mile in length, from north to south, and about half an Irish mile in mean breadth. Its compactness is so great, and its configuration of outline so proximately oblong, that, over at least three-fourths of its length, the denseness of town is no where less than half-a-statute mile in breadth. The houses, including even a large number of the public buildings, consist of brick; but they are, in general, so high, so neat, and so regular, as to constitute a handsome, urban-looking town. Entire streets are composed of houses of equal height, and nearly all on one plan; and even the poorest streets disclose the squalidness of penury in their back courts rather than in the exterior front-line. The houses are nearly all in the London style of freedom from common stairs; and very generally are constructed on principles of pretension disproportioned to their bulk. Many of the houses in Belfast are on a scale of domestic town architecture which may be expressively designated the "shabby-genteel;" yet these line chiefly the subordinate and more sequestered streets, and form a very pleasing substitute for the rows and crowds of thatched cabins which so freely abound in most of even the large towns in Ireland, and which, not much more than a century ago, constituted the street alignment of the then edificed parts of Belfast. A cabin is now almost unknown here; and houses so spacious and elegant as to be quite equal to the majority of country mansions, are not only numerous but compose entire streets.

Donegall-square, at the south end of the town, is a noble quadrangle of about two hundred yards by about one hun-

dred and fifty. Two streets, each nearly half a statute mile long, and mutually parallel over their whole length, run eastward and westward on a line with its north and south sides, and are spacious in width, and handsomely edified with private houses. The northern one of these streets bears successively westward the names of Chichester-street, Donegall-square North, and Wellington-place; and it opens at the west end directly opposite the centre of the Royal Academical Institution. The square, or quadrangle, in the centre of which the Institution stands, has a larger area, and a more airy aspect than Donegall-square, and is sumptuous in its public buildings, although as yet but partially edified. Seven or eight streets, of various width and character, intersect, at right angles, the two great streets which enclose Donegall-square; and, in most instances are prolonged both northward and southward, and which are again rectangularly intersected by subordinate streets, running parallel with Wellington-place. Donegall-place opens from the centre of the north side of Donegall-square, and runs upwards of six hundred feet northward in a very spacious and splendidly edified street line. This locality was formerly the St. James' of Belfast, but it has recently been encroached upon by enterprizing merchants and traders, who have so closely pressed upon the *elite* as to compel them to retire to the new and more appropriate *locale* of Wellwood-place, Glengall-street, College-square, Wellington-place, &c. The shops in Donegall-place are in a style of the most sumptuous splendour, which, with those erected during the present year, called the Castle Buildings, rival, in every respect, the first establishments of their kind in London, Dublin, or Edinburgh. Castle-place and High-street commence at the north end of Donegall-place, and run in a very gentle curve eighteen hundred feet east-north-eastward to the quays. High-street is airy, wide, and of imposing aspect, and makes amends, by the magnificence of its shops and warehouses, and by its cleanly and cheerful appearance, together with the enlivening excitement caused by a perfect whirl of business, for some irregularity in its alignment and architectural structure. Ann-street, south of High-street, and somewhat parallel with it, is narrow and comparatively choked up, but



draws attention from the orderly bustle of its abounding business. Waring-street and Rosemary-street form a continuous line north of High-street, and almost strictly parallel with it ; and though the Rosemary-street part is narrow and confined, the Waring-street part, twelve hundred feet long, is spacious, and possesses, in the aggregate, a wholesale business character. North-street, rather narrow and subordinate in its appearance, runs about one thousand six hundred feet north-westward from the junction of Waring-street and Rosemary-street, or more properly from the north end of Bridge-street, a neat, spacious business street, and one of the greatest thoroughfares in the town, which runs southwards thence to High-street. Donegall-street opens from Waring-street, at the distance of only the length of the Belfast Bank, formerly the " Old Exchange," from the south-east end of North-street ; runs about two thousand feet north-north-westward to the Incorporated Poor House ; is partly uniform, and everywhere spacious and interesting ; and, from the prevalence, successively, of splendid shops, showy places of worship, and mansion-looking houses in its side lines, may be said to have first a business, next an ecclesiastical, and next an aristocratic character. York-street opens from somewhere about the middle of the east side of Donegall-street ; extends, in airiness and great width, about half an Irish mile in the direction of north-east-by-north ; and is at first uniformly edified with large elegant private houses, but afterwards subsides in pretension and is but partially built. North Queen-street runs parallel with York-street from the head of Donegall-street ; but though spacious, is not all edified, and is of various character. Frederick-street runs from North Queen-street to York-street and falls at right angles upon the latter, at a distance of about six hundred yards from Donegall-street. Great Patrick-street continues Frederick-street, on a straight line of nine hundred feet, to an intersection with James'-street ; both are spacious, and the latter regular, chiefly private, and rather handsome. A profusion of streets, principally parallel with either York-street or Great Patrick-street, occupy a pentagonal area of about nine hundred yards by seven hundred, enclosed by the quays, Waring-street, Done-

gall-street, North Queen-street, and the north-east environs ; and while various in use and appearance, they aggregately intersect each other at right angles, and are all new, neat, and cleanly. A crowd of streets, alleys, lanes, and variously-formed edificed areas, occupying an irregularly outlined space of about 360,000 square yards south-west of North-street, north of College-square, and west of Hercules-street, which runs northwards on a straight line with Donegall-place,—is much the poorest district of the town,—corresponding to the St. Giles of London, the Liberties of Dublin, and the Wynds of Glasgow, yet is far from being so degraded as any of these in either squalidness or vice,—and has in its centre the rag-fair of Smithfield, the motley, and “*omnium gatherum*” market for all-descript and non-descript varieties of old wares. The suburb of Cromac subtends, in a southward direction, the south east angle of the town ; covers an area of 90,000 square yards ; and consists of numerous short streets, straight and well built. The suburb of Ballymacarrett in its whole site is low, flat, and a dead alluvial level, bearing every mark of recent reclamation from the tide ; yet it is all so overlooked on the east by the luxuriant and warmly-tinted hills of Castle-reagh, while its western side looks partly across the Lagan to the rich demesne of the Marquis of Donegall, and partly across a wing of Belfast town and the head of Belfast Lough, to the imposing contour and the magnificent escarpments and sky-line of the Cave Hill range of heights, that no tameness or irksomeness belongs to its landscape. Though its houses are disposed over the whole area of the entire parish, they are but partially segregated in street alignment, and, in numerous instances, seem as if they had been sown, powdered, or clustered, rather than methodically arranged. The chief attempt at regularity is along the line of road from the end of the Queen’s Bridge towards Bangor and Newtownards. A street on this line runs nearly a quarter of a mile due east from the bridge, deflects for one hundred yards north-eastward, and then runs three quarters of a mile in the direction of east-by-south of Conn’s Water, which traces the eastern boundary ; but even this long street-line, while straight in its two principal parts, airy throughout, and clean, tidy, and

agreeable in its general aspect, has very numerous and some considerable breaks in the continuity of its edifices, and makes no pretension, as a whole, to a strictly town character. A principal ornament to it is the handsome, yet modest, parish church, on its north side, about three furlongs from Conn's Water. Around the part of the line where the street deflection occurs to the north-east, is a small area of compactly edificed town; the site of the extensive Glass-works which figure so prominently in the landscape of the place, and have so long given a distinctive name to the character of its industry; and the site also of the principal shops, as well as the scene of the great local bustle and business. Two other compact town patches, though they too are small, occur respectively on the tongue of the peninsula, immediately north of Queen's Bridge and on the margin of the Lagan, about half an Irish mile farther south. A thoroughfare eastward from Lagan Bridge, a little below the last named locality, describes nearly the segment of a circle, over a distance of rather more than three quarters of a mile, to near the eastern extremity of the principal thoroughfare; but it has not been many years opened, and, as yet, must be called a road, and not a street. South of this are various lines, but, with the exception of the cluster on the bank of the river, they have all mere sprinklings of houses.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Anne, is situated in a recess on the east side of Donegall-street, the site of which was formerly occupied by the first Brown Linen Hall, and was erected in 1778, by the then Marquis of Donegall. It consists of a nave and chancel, and has a handsome Doric portico, with a lofty Ionic tower, surmounted by a Corinthian cupola, forming an interesting and conspicuous object for miles around. The tower of this church, the turret on the Linen Hall, the steeple on the Incorporated Poor House, and the very graceful and elegant spire on Trinity Church, are the only structures Belfast can boast of in the form of steeples. "The northern architects," say Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall, "seem to have imagined, especially in the erection

of places of worship, that the portico alone formed the proper object on which to display their taste and knowledge, uniformly neglecting the other external portions of the structure, to add to the importance of the favoured member."—St. George's Church, situated at the south side of High-street, was erected in 1812, on the site of a former structure, called the "Corporation Church," which was taken down as unsafe in 1774, and which was built on the ruins of an ancient castle, said to have been raised by the first Anglo-Norman settlers. St. George's is a splendid structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, and possesses a highly-enriched and magnificent portico, which is justly regarded as one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture in the kingdom. This portico consists of six splendid columns, and four fluted pilasters supporting a cornice and pediment, in the tympanum of which are the arms of the united see of Down and Connor, and those of the town in *alto relievo*. This splendid specimen of tetra-style Corinthian architecture was removed from the front of a palace built by the Earl of Bristol, when Bishop of Derry, at Ballyscullion, on the shores of Lough Beg, the materials of which were quarried on the Derry mountains, and worked by Irish artists; and after the noble prelate's death, on the demolition of the palace, was purchased by the late Dr. Alexander, then Bishop of Down and Connor, and presented by him to this church.—Christ Church, situated in College-square, was opened for divine service in July, 1833; It is a plain edifice, with a cut-stone front and colonnade of the Ionic order, surmounted with an entablature; the other parts are of brick, with windows in recesses, ornamented with circular architraves. This church contains sittings, on the ground floor, for one thousand persons, and for six hundred in the gallery; its erection cost £5,000, of which sum £3,000 were raised by subscriptions, and £2,000 were granted by the Board of First Fruits.—The Magdalene Episcopal Chapel, situated in Donegall-pass, was opened for Divine service in 1839.—Trinity Church, situated at the north-western extremity of the town, on the Antrim road, was erected in 1842-3, by the princely munificence of William Wilson, Esq., and his sister, Miss Wilson, by whom also it was endowed.

Although not large, it is a splendid edifice, with a highly ornamented square tower, surmounted by a lofty octagonal spire, of graceful and elegant proportions, which adds very much to the architectural beauty of the town.—The other places of worship belonging to the Established Church are Ballymacarrett Church; St. Matthew's Chapel, Shankhill; St. Anne's Chapel of Ease, Academy-street, which formerly belonged to the Primitive Wesleyan Methodists, and was purchased from that body by the Church Accommodation Society in 1839.

The Meeting-houses of the Unitarian congregations are three in number, two of which are situated in an enclosed space of ground, occupying the same area, in Rosemary-street, and the third, (formerly a chapel belonging to the Methodist New Connexion,) in York-street. Those in Rosemary-street are neat commodious edifices, with ornate stone-finished fronts; the congregation of the first (Rev. William Bruce's) was formed in 1645, and the second in 1708.

The Meeting-house of the fifth\* Presbyterian congregation is situated in Fisherwick-place, and was opened for public worship by the celebrated Dr. Chalmers, of Edinburgh, on the 20th September, 1827. This edifice is of polished free-stone, of the finest quality, the superstructure resting on a granite basement, which is elevated above the surface about three feet. On the north and south sides are two ranges of well-proportioned windows, separated by a fascia course, which surrounds the building. The principal entrance is on the west front, which has a handsome portico of the Ionic order, consisting of four columns, and antæ, which support a regular entablature and angular pediment. The columns measure twenty-seven feet in height, the capitals of which are imitated from the Ionic Temple of Ilissus, near Athens. The doorways are of pyramidal form, as is usual in Grecian buildings. The entablature of the order is continued along the front of the edifice, supported by antæ, over which runs an attic balustrade.

\* It may be well to observe here, that in describing the places of worship in connexion with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we have been obliged to forego taking them in the order of the formation of their congregations, that we may observe chronological regularity in the dates of their erection.

The interior of the house displays considerable architectural taste and ingenuity ; it contains two principal side galleries, and one on the west end of a semi-elliptic form ; over these are commodious galleries for the accommodation of the poor. The ceiling is tastefully formed into panels and compartments of stucco work. The extent of the front is about sixty-nine feet, and the length, including the portico, ninety-eight feet, and is calculated to contain seventeen hundred persons.—The Meeting-house of the sixth Presbyterian congregation is situated in May-street, and was opened for public worship by the Rev. Edward Irving, of London, in 1829. This edifice is raised on a framed foundation ; the front is of Scammozian-Ionic, having two columns and four pilasters, twenty-eight feet high, and fluted. The columns and interior pilasters form a piazza thirty-six feet long, and seven feet wide, over which rises a beautiful pediment. The front of the building is finished with a regular architrave, frieze, and block-cornice, which give it a light, pleasing, and, at the same time, imposing effect. Around the windows are moulded architraves. The entrance is approached by a flight of eight stone steps ; the floor of the building stands considerably above the level of the street, and the whole of the interior is finished in a superb style.—The Meeting-house of the first Presbyterian congregation, in connexion with the General Assembly, and which was originally formed in 1722, was rebuilt, on the site of its predecessor, in 1830-31. This edifice, although situated in a most un-Hellenistic site, is considered one of the most splendid of the kind in the three kingdoms. The front is enriched with a stately Grecian-Doric portico of ten lofty columns, resting on a basement of twenty steps, and surmounted by a beautiful attic balustrade, composed of a series of pedestals and light pierced work, which give it a novel and pleasing effect. The other portions of the building are noble and elegant in design, and pleasing in detail, especially the grand staircase leading to the gallery, from which may best be observed that agreeable harmony of design, and unity of effect which characterise the whole of this chaste and beautiful edifice.—The Presbyterian Meeting-houses in Belfast and its vicinity, and the formation of their congregations are as follows :—Rosemary-street, 1722 ;

Linen Hall-street, 1770; Donegall-street, 1792; Alfred-street, 1813; Fisherwick-place, 1827; May-street, 1829; Townsend-street, 1835; Malone, 1837; Ballymacarrett, 1837; Alfred-place, 1838; Ballysillan, 1839; York-street, 1839; Berry-street, 1839; Great George's-street, 1842; and Newtonbreda, 1843.

St. Mary's, or the "old Roman Catholic Chapel," is situated in an enclosed space in Chapel-lane. It is a plain building, and was erected in 1783, at a cost of £1,200.—St. Patrick's Roman Catholic chapel, situated in Donegall-street, was erected in 1811. It is an elegant and commodious edifice, in the later style of English architecture, and is the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the diocese of Down and Connor.—St. Malachy's is situated in M'Clean's Field, in the vicinity of Alfred-street, and was consecrated on the 15th December, 1844. The architecture of this chapel is a modification of the ecclesiastical style of the Tudor period. In the arrangement of the plan, the architect was compelled to deviate from the ancient church form with nave, aisles, chancel, transepts, &c., and to place the altar at the side, in order to afford the greatest possible amount of gallery accommodation, so that the officiating clergyman could be both seen and heard from all parts of the interior of the edifice. The form of the area of the site, as well as the desire to afford the greatest accommodation also rendered this deviation from the plan necessary. The architect has, however, to great advantage retained the cruciform arrangement in the ground plan. In the front is a spacious and elegant porch, with a hall having three doors of entrance, the front one of which is very large, yet conveniently opening to the sides, and exposing to the view a beautiful and tastefully executed marble tablet, erected by the Right Rev. Dr. Denvir and committee of the congregation in memory of the late Captain Griffith, who bequeathed the sum of £3,000 to the erection and finish of this edifice. The tablet is appropriately inscribed, and rests on a pedestal of statuary marble, which is supported by two cherubim; the frame-work is of dove marble, closing in a Gothic point, and all finished in the most chaste and perfect style. In this porch there are two side-doors, opening to two stair-

cases that lead to the gallery. At each end of the chapel there is a porch of corresponding dimensions, each containing two spacious staircases ascending to the gallery. All the porches are furnished with octagon fonts of black marble, the workmanship of which is exquisitely chaste. The interior of the house is one hundred and thirteen feet long, by fifty feet wide, and forty feet high to the ceiling, having a gallery of six pews in depth continued round the front side, and at each end. Over the front porch, and opposite to the altar, is a spacious organ-loft, which is lighted by the large window of the front porch, which is between thirteen and fourteen feet wide. In the rear are convenient sacristies and large upper rooms, which form a pile of building that completes the cruciform shape of the ground plan of the edifice. The exterior of the building presents a very solid and massive appearance when viewed on the spot; but if seen in an oblique view, as from Ormeau-road, the towers and pinnacles give it an ornamental and very pleasing appearance. The interior finish and decoration of the church also corresponds with the style of the Tudor period. The ceiling is elaborately executed in stucco, and its pendants are really magnificent; it somewhat resembles the ceiling of Henry VII.'s chapel at Westminster, and adds to Belfast one more curiosity which strangers will look at with admiration. The altar, with its compartment for altarpiece, the tabernacle, pulpit, &c., are elaborate specimens of the Gothic style—the altar being in imitation of statuary marble, the tabernacle richly gilt, and the pulpit of solid Irish oak, richly carved and finished. In one of the towers of the front porch is suspended a very large and well-toned bell.

The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, situated in Donegall-square East, was erected in 1805, and is now in course of rebuilding on a scale of sumptuous splendour, and, considering the cramped area of the site, bids fair to form an elegant addition to the architectural embellishments of the town. The Frederick-street Wesleyan Chapel was erected in 1837; it is a commodious edifice with a stone-finished front and neat portico. The other chapels belonging to the Wesleyan Methodists are situated in Ballymacarrett, at Hyde Park, and



Wesley-place. The chapel of the Primitive Wesleyan Methodists is situated in Donegall-place, and was erected in 1842; it is a spacious edifice, with a very handsome front, but the unity of its design is greatly marred by having a shop on each side incorporated with its otherwise elegant front. The other Primitive Wesleyan Methodist chapels are situated respectively in Melbourne-street, Ballymacarrett, and Ormeau-road. The Methodist New Connexion have a commodious and tastefully finished chapel in York-street, which was erected in 1838. There are two Covenanters' Meeting-houses, one of which, situated on the Dublin road, was erected in 1812, and the other in College-street South. The Independent Meeting-house is situated in Donegall-street, and was erected in 1804. The Meeting-house of the Society of Friends, situated in Frederick-street, was erected in 1812. The United Scottish Secession church, situated in College-square North, was erected in 1843; it is a neat edifice, in the pointed Gothic style, supported by abutments, and surmounted with embrasures and ornamented pinnacles. The Bethel Chapel, for the accommodation of seamen frequenting the port, is situated in Pilot-street, the chapel of the Baptist congregation in King-street, Primitive Seceding Meeting-house, in York-street, and the Apostolic Chapel, in Queen-street.

The number of houses for public worship in 1809 was but ten, viz.:—St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Donegall-street; five Presbyterian Meeting-houses, three of which were in Rosemary-lane, now Rosemary-street, one in Berry-street, and one in Donegall-street; St. Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel, Chapel-lane; an Independent Meeting-house, Donegall-street; a Friends' Meeting-house, rear of North-street; and a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Donegall-square East. There are now forty-eight, viz.:—of the Established Church nine; Unitarian, three; Presbyterian, fifteen; Roman Catholic, four; Reformed Presbyterian, two; Primitive Seceding, one; United Secession, one; Wesleyan Methodist, four; Primitive Wesleyan Methodist, three; Methodist New Connexion, one; Baptist, one; Independent, one; the Bethel, or Seamen's Chapel, one; the Primitive Seceding, one; and the Apostolic, one.

## CIVIL BUILDINGS.

The old "Long Bridge," known in ancient records as the "Great Bridge of Belfast," which carried the thoroughfare across the Lagan into Ballymacarrett, and which stood immediately above the river's expansion into Belfast Lough, was long regarded as one of the architectural wonders of Ulster. The foundation of this bridge was laid in April, 1682, but its completion was delayed till after the Revolution. In 1689 it was greatly shaken, having been weakened by the Duke Schomberg's heavy cannon being drawn over it, as well as by a ship driving against it before its cement was thoroughly indurated, in consequence of which, in the spring of 1692, seven of its arches fell in; being shortly after repaired, it continued nearly a century and a half in tolerable preservation. This bridge was constructed at the joint expense of the counties of Antrim and Down, and cost, some say £8,000, and some £12,000. It consisted of twenty-one arches, of which eighteen were in the county of Down and three in the county Antrim side of the Lagan, the channel of the river running through the third arch of the Antrim section. Its entire length, including the dead work, was 2,562 feet, of this the twenty-one arches of which it was composed occupied 840 feet; the breadth of the arched part was only twenty-two feet, and that of the dead work was originally but nineteen feet, but the dead work was subsequently widened. In 1840 it was pronounced ruinous and unsafe for traffic, and, by a joint resolution of the grand juries of the counties of Antrim and Down, it was ordered to be taken down, and a new one erected in its stead. Accordingly, the truly chaste and commanding piece of architecture, Queen's Bridge, was founded on its site in 1841. It consists of five semicircular arches, each of fifty feet span—leaving two hundred and fifty feet of water-way in the river—and of a considerable extent of dead-work at each end, and has a breadth of forty feet between the range walls. The style of architecture is exceedingly simple and elegant, being faced throughout with granite from the Newry mountains. The cost of its erection was £28,000, at the joint expense of the two counties. It was opened to the public in January, 1843. "From the range walls on

either side," says M'Comb's Almanac, "a fine prospect is obtained. On the one hand,—the Cave Hill, the high lands of Carnmoney, the lough, bearing on its ruffled bosom the numerous steamers, trading vessels, and small craft which ply between our quays and the western ports of Great Britain, the hills of the county Down, skirted with groves, and away in the distance the lively little, and oft-frequented village of Holywood ;—on the other,—the winding Lagan, the groves of Ormeau, the well-enclosed pleasure grounds of the Botanic Garden, and above and beyond all the lofty hills of Castlereagh. Such is Queen's Bridge, and when, as is contemplated, Ann-street shall have been widened, it will afford an easy and pleasing entrance to that quarter of the town."—Lagan Bridge, on a site about six hundred and seventy yards farther up the river, was authorised by an act of the session of 1831, and was soon after constructed, under the management of a joint-stock company.

The Commercial Buildings stand on the south side of Waring-street, looking up Donegall-street, and were erected by an incorporated company, in 1820, at the cost of £20,000. It is a large and elegant structure, with a granite front of Ionic columns, resting on a rusticated basement. The building comprises an excellent hotel, a spacious and handsome news-room, liberally supplied with the principal newspapers, shipping lists, and periodicals of the day, over which is a large and elegant assembly-room, the place of meeting for large, respectable, special assemblies, whether fashionable, political, charitable, or religious. Behind these is an area with a piazza, and in connexion with them are numerous offices, occupied by professional men. The merchants assemble in the news-room, and there hold 'Change on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.—The first Brown Linen Hall was established in 1754, in the square now occupied by St. Anne's Church, and was removed, in 1773, to the present locality, south side of Donegall-street.—The White Linen Hall, situated in the centre of Donegall-square, was erected in 1785, at an expense of £10,000, the site of which was granted in perpetuity by the then Earl of Donegall. It is an extensive quadrangular range of plain two-story building, the central part of its front

loftier than the rest, pedimented, and sending aloft a small, neat tower, and its interior so disposed in offices and rooms for the merchants as to be particularly well adapted to the purpose for which it was designed. An area all round the building, and enclosed by an iron railing, is tastefully planted with evergreens and flowering shrubs, and affords, at all seasons, a most agreeable promenade for the inhabitants.

Diagonally confronting the Commercial Buildings, and situated at the divergence of North and Donegall-streets, stood the "Old Exchange." It was erected in 1769, by the then Earl of Donegall, at an expense of £4,000. It was formerly the place of public resort for the merchants; but, since the erection of the Commercial Buildings, it ceased to be used by them, and is now converted into the head office of the Belfast Banking Company, by whom it has been so much altered and beautified as to have undergone a complete metamorphosis from a large pile of unseemly black brick to one of the handsomest architectural ornaments of the town. The Cash Office is a splendid apartment. The Directors' and Accountants' Rooms, Bank Note Assorting Room, with various others, are on the same floor. The apartment is two stories in height, thirty-eight feet from the floor to the ceiling, and sixty feet long, by thirty feet wide. The style of building is Italian. The entrance is Roman Doric, with the Belfast Arms over. The upper windows are deeply recessed, and decorated with Corinthian columns and pediments, standing upon projecting galleries, supported upon trusses. At the angles are massive rusticated quoins; crowned by a massive cornice, supported upon cantalivrs, with enriched frieze below, and open balustraded parapet on top. The fittings inside are of mahogany framing, moulded and enriched in front with trusses, in a very substantial manner. The Cash Office of the Bank of Ireland, in Dublin, has been justly praised for its beauty; but, in several important respects, it is not equal to that of the Belfast Banking Company.—The Northern Bank is a lofty and imposing edifice, confronting the head of Castle-place.—The Custom-house, an old, gloomy, and paltry edifice, is situated on Hanover-quay, and is altogether unworthy of the town. It reflects great discredit upon those

whose duty it is to have proper and commodious places for transacting the important business of that branch of her Majesty's revenue, to which the merchants of Belfast contribute not a little.—The Theatre, situated in Arthur-street, was erected in 1791. It is a small, plain, brick building, with a stone-finished front and elegant interior.—The Music Hall, situated in May-street and Upper Arthur-street, was erected in 1839; it is a spacious and splendid edifice, constructed on excellent acoustic principles.—The Barracks were originally situated in Cooney's-court, a paltry-edified parallelogram, off Ann-street, and in 1737 the barracks in Barrack-street were erected, but they have been long superseded by the present range of buildings, situated on the north side of North Queen-street, and which extend back in a quadrangle, on the skirt of the acclivity, which there begins to ascend toward the hills, and contain accomodation for one regiment of infantry, and for a troop of cavalry, or a company of artillery.—The Museum is situated in College-square, the foundation-stone of which was laid by the late Marquis of Donegall, on the 4th of May, 1830. On this interesting occasion a bottle was deposited in the foundation-stone, containing the current coins of the realm, copies of the various papers published by the Belfast Natural History Society, an impression of the public seal of the Corporation of the town, and four verses from the 12th chapter of the book of Job, from the 7th to the 11th verses, written in fifteen different languages, viz.:—Hebrew, Greek, Irish, Welsh, Arabic, Latin, Italian, German, Danish, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Romain, German-Hebrew, and English. The lower story of this chaste and classic edifice is in imitation of the Choragic monument of Thrasylus, with a portico which is an exact copy of that of the octagon tower of Andronicus at Athens; and the upper portions are designed after the model of the Temple of Minerva. The interior comprises several spacious, lofty, and elegant apartments, with lecture rooms, observatory, &c. Let it be the eternal honour and glory of Belfast to boast, that this Museum was the first institution of the kind ever erected in Ireland by voluntary subscriptions.—The "Old house of Correction," Howard-street, erected by Grand Jury Presentment, in 1817, has been superseded by

the splendid new prison, Crumlin-road, at the north-western extremity of the town, which is built on the plan of the London prison, at Pentonville. This building was opened for the reception of prisoners in the beginning of the present year, and possesses accommodation for three hundred persons. In this institution prison discipline is established upon a comprehensive and improved plan, which cannot fail to be productive of the most beneficial results in this populous, important, and commercial town.—The Police Office, or, as it is sometimes called, *par excellence*, the Town Hall, is situated in Poultry-square, and contains, besides its proper accommodation, a room for a daily court of petty-sessions. The other public buildings will be described under their proper heads.

#### SCIENCE AND LITERATURE.

The Belfast Academy was instituted 25th January, 1786. This institution was projected on enlightened principles far in advance of the period of its foundation. It was for some time conducted with a college department, but since (about sixty years ago), it has simply been a finishing school for boys, closely akin in character to the high or grammar schools of Edinburgh or Glasgow. It contains five schools, over each of which a separate master presides; at the head of the establishment is a principal, who is charged with the general management and superintendence of the institution.—The Royal Belfast Academical Institution is an extensive range of building, three stories high, presenting rather a good front, but very narrow in proportion to its length, and quite inferior in architectural character to its high destiny and noble uses. It stands isolatedly in the centre of College-square, and is surrounded at a distance, or on a line with the inner sides of the encompassing streets, by a stone wall and iron railing; but it has a naked, gaunt appearance, and totally wants the features of college architecture. It was first projected in 1807, and within a few weeks after the promulgation of the design, subscriptions to the amount of £16,000 were raised for carrying it into effect. This sum was further increased by subscriptions from other parts of Ireland, and from England; and, under the patronage of the Marquis of Hastings,

nearly £5,000 was subscribed in India, making the total amount £30,000. The building was erected in 1810, when the patrons and principal subscribers were incorporated a body politic by act of parliament, and it was, at the same time, endowed with a parliamentary grant of £1,500 per annum. This grant continued for a number of years, but was withheld from 1816 till 1824, after which it was renewed, and, in 1834, increased to £3,500, of which sum £2,000 was for additional buildings, and £1,500 for general expenditure. A school department in the Institution does not partake in the grant, and is conducted by masters for writing, drawing, mathematics, English, French, Italian, Spanish, and Classics. The parliamentary grant is distributed in salaries of £150 each to professors of Logic and Belles-lettres, Greek and Latin, Hebrew and Oriental Languages, Natural Philosophy, Ecclesiastical History, Mathematics, and Anatomy and Physiology; £150 to an assistant-secretary, and the same sum for incidental expenses; £100 each to two professors of Divinity; and £50 each to professors of Chemistry, Botany, Surgery, the theory and practice of Physic, Materia Medica and Pharmacy, and Midwifery and the treatment of the diseases of women and children. Connected with the institution are a museum and valuable library. The college term extends from the 1st of November till the 30th of April. The college department possesses almost the same relation to the Presbyterian communities of Ulster which the Scottish Universities do to the Established Church and Presbyterian dissenting bodies of Scotland. The affairs of the Institution are conducted by a president, four vice-presidents, twenty managers and visitors, chosen by the proprietary.—The Lancasterian National School, Frederick-street, was founded in 1811, when the present building occupied by it was erected at the cost of £2,000.—The Brown-street Sunday and Daily School was established in 1812, under the patronage of the late Marquis of Donegall, and the spacious school-house, with residences for the master and the mistress, erected by subscription, which amounted to £1,500.—The large school adjoining St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Chapel, in Donegall-street, was erected in 1829, by the most Rev. Dr. Crolly, then Roman

Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, and was the first school in Ireland to place itself under the National Board of Education.—There are in Belfast and its vicinity nineteen National schools, and a great number of private seminaries. St. Ann's Parochial Day and Sunday Schools were established in 1831, and in 1846 had an average attendance of about three hundred. St. George's Church Daily School, opened in 1834, had an average attendance—male school, 125; female school, 130. Christ Church Daily School, opened in 1836, average attendance, male school, 500; female school, 315; infant school, 214; Sunday School pupils, 420; teachers, 60; attendants at other schools connected with Christ Church about 200.—Arrangements for the erection of suitable buildings for Queen's College are now completed. In accordance with the provisions of 8 and 9 Victoria, cap. 66, a sum of £30,000 is to be expended on the building; and as an appropriate and suitable site has been selected in the vicinity of the Botanic Garden, Queen's College will form an interesting accession to the substantial and ornamental edifices in that end of the town. Belfast has long been celebrated for the directing and elevating tone which it has imparted to the whole subject of education,—for the study it has incited of the best methods of mental training,—and even for lifting the instrumentalities and the influences of education to a high place among the sciences.

The Belfast Society for Promoting Knowledge was established in 1788. This society is under the direction of a president, vice-president, and committee annually elected, and its meetings are held in the centre building of the White Linen Hall, where the library is kept, which now contains upwards of 8,500 volumes on history, biography, voyages, travels, encyclopedias (French and English), works on natural philosophy, natural history, science, and the arts: dictionaries, maps, charts, reviews, magazines, philosophical and scientific journals, &c. It has also a collection of minerals and philosophical apparatus, and a register of the weather is kept by the librarian. A superb addition has recently been made to the library of a commodious and elegantly fitted up apartment.—The Belfast Literary Society was formed in 1801,



for the advancement and cultivation of literature, science, and the arts, and for receiving information respecting the history, antiquities, and present state of Ireland.—The Medical Library was formed in 1806, and is under the superintendence of the Medical Society.—The Historic Society was established in 1811, for the study of general history, the British laws and constitution, and the cultivation of oratory.—The Rhetorical Society was established for the discussion of literary subjects. On the first meeting in each month a paper is read by the members in succession. A library has been formed in connexion with the society, for the use of its members, which now contains many useful and valuable works. At the close of each session a prize is awarded to the person whom the members show by their votes to have spoken best.—The Natural History and Philosophical Society, instituted in 1821, for the cultivation of natural history, and the investigation of the topography, statistics, and antiquities of Ireland. The meetings of this society are held in the Museum, College-square, at which papers are read by the members in succession.—The Mechanic's Institute was founded in May, 1825, and includes a scientific school for the delivery to artizans of occasional lectures on mechanics and chemistry. It was re-organized and revived in 1838.—The Botanic Gardens were formed in 1827, by a number of gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, for the encouragement and cultivation of Botanical and Horticultural pursuits. The Gardens are delightfully situated near the banks of the Lagan, on the Malone road, about a mile from the Commercial Buildings. They are the property of shareholders, and are vested in three trustees. Its affairs are conducted by a committee of twenty-one proprietors annually elected. Though not remarkable for extent, they possess great beauty and interest. Their site abounds in slight and graceful undulations; a tiny morass, at the base of one of the slopes, has been dressed into a neat *habitat* of aquatic plants. The whole garden arrangement, while quite scientific, has a strikingly pictorial effect. The conservatories are constructed according to the most recent improvements; and an excellent suit of lodging-rooms is attached, for the use of apprentices to the art of enlightened

and experienced gardening.—Two societies exist in the town for promoting horticultural improvement, the one called the Northern Horticultural Society, and the other the Belfast Botanical and Horticultural Society.—The Statistical Society of Ulster was established in March, 1838. The government of this society is vested in a president, vice-president, treasurer, and trustees, who, with ten members, form the council. Monthly meetings are held, when communications on statistical subjects are read, and other business connected with the society transacted.

The Society for the Improvement of the Growth and Preparation of Flax in Ireland was organized on the 24th of March, 1840. The principal object of this society is to impart instruction to local farming societies, by sending practical men to superintend the treatment of flax on the most improved method, and by the circulation of printed instructions, supplying proper implements, &c. This society was established under the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant, with the late Marquis of Downshire as its first president. Previous to its formation the agriculturists of this country were very deficient in their knowledge of the proper treatment of flax, in all its stages, and the large sums of money annually sent out of the country to the Continent for flax was calculated to be, at least, £2,000,000. The idea of forming this society originated with Andrew Mulholland, Esq., who was also the first to introduce flax-spinning by machinery into Ireland.—The Ulster Teachers' Association was established for the purpose of improving the character of elementary teachers, and securing for them better remuneration than is common throughout the country, and it corresponds with subordinate and local associations in different parts of the province.—There are four musical societies—the Anacreontic Society, which meets weekly for practice in the Music Hall; the Choral Society for the extension of a taste for sacred music; the Irish Harp Society, instituted for the support and musical education of destitute blind boys; and the Harmonic Society.—The Fine Arts Society was instituted in 1843, and has for its object the advancement of a taste

for, and knowledge of the Fine Arts generally. Essays are read at the society's meetings on some branch of the subject, and new works of art exhibited.

The Art of Printing was first introduced in 1696, by James Blow and Patrick Neil, from whose press, in 1704, issued the first Bible ever printed in Ireland. On the 1st of September 1737, the first number of the *Belfast Newsletter* appeared, the earliest and oldest journal in Ulster, and the third oldest in Ireland; the original subscription was four shillings and four pence per annum in town, and six shillings and six pence "if delivered in the country." A great many newspapers, of every shade in the political rainbow, have risen and fallen here since the establishment of the *Newsletter*—

"—————born to blush unseen,  
And waste their sweetness on the desert air."

The Newspapers at present published in Belfast are all widely circulated, and possess considerable talent; they reflect the highest credit upon their enterprising proprietors and skilful editors, for the elegance of their typography and admirable arrangement. The first in order after the *Newsletter*, is the *Belfast Commercial Chronicle*, established in 1805; the *Northern Whig*, in 1824; the *Vindicator*, in 1839; the *Banner of Ulster*, in 1842; and the *Protestant Journal*, in 1844. In addition to these are the *Belfast Mercantile Register*, established in 1822, exclusively devoted to commercial and mercantile affairs; and the *Ulster General Advertiser*, a literary, commercial, and advertising miscellany. Belfast has not, as yet, figured much in literature as a publishing town; but it is *creeping* into "the trade," and some very elegant specimens of book typography have recently issued from its presses. The printing establishments are numerous and respectable, and have produced several periodicals, chiefly religious, and a profusion of small volumes, fugitive works, and pamphlets. The town, also, is the book emporium for nearly all Ulster; and the *entrepot* of a very large proportion of British publications sent to Ireland. There are various public circulating libraries, as well as a large number established by private enterprise.

## BENEVOLENT AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The benevolent and charitable institutions are valuable and numerous, and reflect the highest honour on the public spirit and philanthropy of the inhabitants.—The Incorporated Poor House, in North Queen-street, looking down Donegall-street, was erected in 1771, on a site granted for the purpose by the then Earl of Donegall. It was built by subscriptions and a lottery, at a cost of between £7,000 and £10,000. The house is large and commodious, comprising a centre and two wings, and a small but well-formed spire. The subscribers to this Institution were incorporated by act of parliament in 1774, by the title of the “Belfast Incorporated Charitable Society.” The funds of this society so increased as to furnish the chief investments for constructing the waterworks of the town; and the establishment is maintained by means of £750 a-year from the waterworks, the interest on accumulated donations, and the proceeds of annual subscriptions, amounting jointly to upwards of £2,000. The inmates are infirm aged persons, and orphans or deserted children. The old men are employed as handicraftsmen, and the boys are either instructed in their trades or apprenticed out; and the girls knit all the stockings used in the house, and, with the assistance of the old women, perform all the sewing required for the inmates.

The Public Dispensary and Fever Hospital was established in 1792. In 1797 a Fever Hospital was established in West-street, and in August, 1817, this valuable institution was incorporated with the Public Dispensary, and removed to the present building in Frederick-street, which was erected for the purpose at a cost of £6,000. This Institution includes a Surgical department for chronic diseases, and for injuries from accidents. In 1839 its income and expenditure were respectively £2,345 0s. 1d., and £2,490 5s. 3d., and the number of intern patients in its Infirmary department was 1,738. During the year ending in April, 1841, its fever cases were 1,709, its chronic cases 281, and its surgical cases 27. The fever patients will henceforth be received into the new Hospital, recently erected in connexion with the Union Workhouse.

The Lying-in-Hospital was originally established in Donegall-street, in 1794; and in 1830, the present neat building,

Antrim-road, was erected, when the establishment was removed hither. During 1839 it had 192 patients.

In 1827 a Dispensary was opened in Chapel-lane, which, in 1839, received and expended £51 14s. 2d. Two other Dispensaries, in the same year, received £121 15s., expended £102 10s. 2d., and had recommended to them 6,069 patients.

The Ophthalmic Institution—Eye and Ear Dispensary, and the Northern Institution for diseases of the skin amongst the poor, are situated in Mill-street. Both of these establishments are supported by voluntary contributions, and supply medicine and advice gratuitously.

In April, 1846, the Fever Hospital and Dispensary, which had hitherto existed as a joint establishment, were disunited, and the Belfast General Dispensary was established. Under the constitution of this charity the town is divided into six dispensary districts, each attended by one medical gentleman, who receives a salary of £50 per annum. There are also three dispensary stations, viz., Hospital station, Cromac station, and Shankhill station, in each of which there is a resident apothecary, at a salary of £72 per annum. The General Dispensary is supported by voluntary subscriptions, assisted by a county grant. In 1846, the sum of £621 was subscribed by the town, and an equivalent amount was added by the Grand Jury. The expenditure is not, as yet, accurately ascertained, the charity not having been one year in existence, but it will amount to about £1,000 annually.

The New Fever Hospital was erected in 1846, and will be opened for the reception of patients in the beginning of the ensuing year. The building is a plain, but not inelegant, and substantial structure, erected a little to the east of the new Workhouse, and commands, from its elevation, a fine view of the town, the Lough, and surrounding country. In the interior, the arrangements are very complete; and we do not know of any similar institution where so much pains have been taken to render the various apartments in every way fitted to serve the purposes intended. There are three separate floors in the building, on the first of which, or ground floor, are the private apartments of the house surgeon, the kitchen, servants' room, and laboratory; also, the female

ward for patients who have become convalescent. On the second floor are the wards for male patients, and the nurses' rooms; and, on the third, or upper floor, are the wards for females. The total number of wards is ten—one-half for males and the other half for females. Of this number, six have accommodation for thirteen, or, at most, fifteen patients each, and the remainder for ten or twelve each. The number of patients who can thus be admitted, without inconvenience, is about 140; but it is estimated, when all the arrangements are completed, that there will be accommodation sufficient for 300 patients. The roofs are high, and the wards all ventilated, on the most improved and perfect system. This is effected by means of ventilators placed in the roof of each apartment, and by apertures in the walls, placed beyond the controul of the nurses. These are all connected with a high tower, or chimney, rising in the centre of the building, and carry off the heated vapour and exhalation arising from the wards. Fresh air is admitted by separate apertures placed in the bottom of each window, a little above the level of the bed-steads, so that in no case can a patient be exposed to a current of cold air. Each floor is furnished with a large bath which is constantly supplied, day and night, with abundance of hot and cold water. The system adopted for treating patients is also admirable, and is as follows:—When a patient arrives for admission, he is received in an out-house, a few yards distant from the main building. He is here stripped of his old clothing, placed in a warm bath, thoroughly cleansed, and has his hair taken off. He is then covered with the hospital dress, placed in an ingeniously contrived easy chair, and carried in the gentlest manner to the fever ward. After the fever has subsided, the patient is again placed in a warm bath, dressed in fresh clothing, and removed to the convalescent ward, where he remains till he is so far recovered as to leave the hospital. The mode adopted for removing infection from the patients' clothes, as well as from sheets, blankets, &c., is equally perfect. The clothes, &c., are first placed in large vessels, in the out-houses, and well steamed; they are next steeped in hot water, and, afterwards, thoroughly washed. They are then removed to an upper floor, and hung on rods

placed across the room, where they are dried by heated air arising from steam pipes placed through the apartment. The clothes brought into the hospital by each patient are kept separately, and labelled with his name, so that, on his recovery, his former dress is ready to be put on. In the out-houses are several store-rooms, in which the clean linen belonging to the hospital, patients clothing, &c., &c., are kept; as also tanks for hot water, steam-boiler, wash-house, laundry, and various other conveniencies. The hospital is superintended by a consulting physician. Under him is the house surgeon, who constantly resides on the spot. Besides the surgeon, there is also a matron, who is assisted by seven nurses, for attending to the wants of the patients, supplying them with food and medicine; and, in addition to these, are six house servants, who attend to the cooking, washing, and other duties, so that the establishment is complete in every department. And now, when there is so much prevalent disease, and so much misery existing, it is satisfactory to know, that those who require the aid of such an institution as the New Fever Hospital, will be more properly treated within its walls, will have better prospects of a speedy recovery, than if allowed to remain within their own houses—it may be within mere hovels, or in small, low-roofed, ill-ventilated places, surrounded on all sides by pestilential vapours, in themselves frequently the cause of disease and death.

The Public Bakery, Church-street, was established in 1800. At this period extreme dearth prevailed, provisions of all descriptions were at famine prices,—oatmeal sold for 56s. per cwt., and the poor would have felt its effects still more keenly, had it not been for the timely establishment of this valuable institution. As a contrast with the formation of the Public Bakery, in 1800, is an act of the Corporation Assembly, in 1676, when it was decreed that no stranger or alien should “put to sale,” either in public or private, any bread except on the market-day, and then only from nine o’clock in the morning till three o’clock in the afternoon. The Public Bakery is now a valuable property to the shareholders, and shares are sold at a high premium, as the dividends are large.

The Savings’ Bank was opened in January, 1816, for the

receipt and accumulation of the savings of the industrious classes. This was the first institution of the kind established in Ireland. In 1830, a very neat building was erected for it, in King-street, at an expense of £1,400. At the yearly settlement of the books, November, 1843, the balance in the bank amounted to £106,075 8s. 4d., being the property of 5,094 depositors, and in November, 1846, the balance in bank was £145,395 7s. 7d.

The Master Mariners' Association was founded in November, 1816, for securing annuities to the widows and families of deceased members, allowance to members in time of sickness, and in cases of shipwreck, &c. This society is supported by entrance fees, monthly subscriptions, and fines; besides the interest of a large accumulated fund. In addition to master mariners, there are several merchants, ship-owners, and other respectable traders, members of this laudable association.—In 1826, the Society for the Relief of the Destitute Sick was formed. The benevolence of this society is confined to those who are really destitute,—where sickness and poverty are united. In the same year, the Ladies' Society for Clothing the Poor was instituted.

The District Lunatic Asylum, for the relief of the lunatic poor, was opened for the reception of inmates on the 2nd of June, 1829. It stands in an airy and healthful situation, about a mile west of the town, and was erected by Government, at the cost of upwards of £30,000. It has, as seen from a little distance, an imposing and almost sumptuous appearance, and forms a distinctive feature in the general landscape. In 1836, an additional building, capable of accommodating one hundred patients, and designed as a provision for the increase of applicants, and for incurable cases, was erected at a cost of £3,486 8s. 9d. One part of the establishment contains two dormitories for males, and two for females, each pair capable of containing forty-four beds, and separated by a room, for, respectively, a keeper and a nurse, with inspection-windows on either side. Attached to the buildings is a small farm of about twenty-one acres, designed to engage a portion of the patients in the healthy employment of agriculture. In 1841, there were one hundred and thirty-six male



and one hundred and eighteen female patients remaining from the preceding year, two male and six female patients re-admitted, and fifty-two male and forty-seven female patients admitted for the first time; and, out of the whole, forty-one males and thirty-five females were cured, five males and six females were relieved, and eleven males and sixteen females died. The total expense for that year was, £3,576 15s. 2d.; the expense for diet only, £1,774 19s. 11d., and the average cost of each patient, £14 12s. 10d. The district comprehends the counties of Antrim and Down, and the county of the town of Carrickfergus.

The first Society was formed, and a School opened for the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, in May, 1831, when the retiring-room of the Independent Meeting-house, in Donegall-street, was rented by the society, for the purpose of a day-school. The first annual meeting of the society was held in May, 1832, the number of pupils being small. In the following year the school was removed to a room in King-street, and so little progress had been made that but eight pupils were in attendance. The second annual meeting was held in June, 1833; and in the December following there were but seven pupils. Up to this period, the school had been exclusively for deaf mutes, and merely a day-school. The propriety of admitting a blind boy, having been discussed at a committee meeting, suggested the plan of combining the instruction of the two classes. Accordingly, in the month of March, 1835, the first step was taken to carry this plan into effect, and a public meeting was held in the April following, when it was resolved to raise subscriptions for the erection of an institution, which was completed, in College-street, and opened for the reception of pupils in February, 1836. This, in the course of time, was found to be too confined for the number of pupils which the society's increasing funds enabled them to educate, and a new building was determined on. Consequently, the truly splendid edifice, situated on the Dublin-road, was designed, the foundation-stone of which was laid by the late Marquis of Donegall, on the 31st of August, 1843; and was opened for the reception of pupils on the 24th of September, 1845. This edifice is composed of English brick, the

doors and windows decorated with richly ornamented cut-stone dressings. It is in the Tudor style of architecture, comprising a centre and two wings. The front elevation extends from east to west two hundred and twenty-two feet, and the wings at each end one hundred and sixty-four feet to the rear. The main building is two stories high, and over the principal entrance rises an elegant, unique, octagonal dome, which has a very pleasing, and, at the same time, impressive effect. This institution, which is an honour to Ulster, and an ornament to Belfast, is situated on a gentle eminence, on the north side of the new turnpike road to Lisburn, about a mile from the Commercial Buildings. At the entrance gate is a neat porter-lodge, and in front of the building is a double terrace, with a lawn sloping to the road, tastefully laid out, and planted with flowering shrubs and evergreens.

A Society for the Encouragement and Reward of Good Conduct in Female Servants, and which gives a premium of four guineas at the expiration of four years of uninterrupted faithful service, and of ten guineas at the expiration of seven years, was formed in 1836, and hitherto has operated with admirable effect.—A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and a Total Abstinence Society, were formed in the same year, and continue in active operation.

The Ulster Female Penitentiary, situated in Brunswick-street, was opened for the reception of inmates in November, 1839. It contains a separate apartment for each inmate, a lending-library, effective appliances of literary and religious instruction, and such facilities for economy, order, and industry, as furnish a model for similar establishments. During the first fourteen months of its existence, it admitted fifty-four females, who sought, or accepted, a retreat from vice, and a religious home. Not a single applicant has been refused admittance, and every wretched outcast, desirous of forsaking the evil of her ways, may find in it a shelter and a home. From the common jails, and from the lowest dens of infamy and crime, its inmates are taken, yet such is the admirable system maintained in it, that, in few private families are there more peace and harmony, industry, economy, and good management, than in this excellent and praiseworthy

institution. A former penitentiary, fitted up in a large private house in Donegall-street, and subsequently removed to Cromac-street, was well conducted, but allowed to fall into disuetude by an inert committee of management.—The Magdalene Asylum is situated in Donegall-pass.

The Loan Fund Society and Mont de Piete was established in 1840, for lending money at interest, in sums not exceeding £10, and receiving it back in weekly instalments. In 1841, the Loan Fund's amount of capital was £10,435; the amount circulated, £40,721; the number of loans, £10,180; the nett profit, £547 18s. 2d.; the amount expended for charitable purposes £255.

St. Patrick's Orphan Society, May-street and Seymour-street, was established in February, 1840, and is under the patronage of the Right Rev. Dr. Denvir, and the management of a committee of ladies connected with the Roman Catholic congregations of the town. The objects of the society are to afford the means of support to destitute orphans, to bestow upon them a religious education, and to implant the seeds of virtue in their tender minds. There is also a school-house, adjoining the society's establishment, for educating the poor of the neighbourhood. The society is supported by voluntary subscriptions.

The Night Asylum for the Houseless Poor is situated in Poultry-square, and was instituted in 1841. This asylum is open to strangers as well as natives. From the last report of the committee, it appears that the number of inmates is invariably found to correspond with the activity or depression of trade, —with every increase or decrease in the demand for labour. It also appears that there has been a diminution in the number of strangers since the commencement of the Institution. Thus, in 1843, there were 15,552 under this head; in 1844, 9,155; and in 1845, 5,933; while the increase of natives, during the same period, has been in a corresponding ratio. The last report presents a considerable diminution in the number of admissions, which is satisfactory, as evincing, notwithstanding the failure of the potato crop, a more prosperous state of the industrial callings. To the friendless stranger, seeking for employment, this Institution presents some con-

solation during the time of his application, and, even in this respect alone, it is worthy of support. But its most interesting feature is, its tendency to diminish juvenile delinquency. This is a matter of great moment, and of more importance than at first sight would appear. Prisons may correct, may chastise, and may tell upon the fears of mankind, but they cannot, or do not, at least as they are at present conducted, reform the character. The juvenile delinquent requires more than the rod; he must be reclaimed by teaching, as well as by acting upon the better tendencies of his nature. Though this Institution can do no more than give an inducement to those who are not wholly lost to a sense of shame, to separate themselves, for a season, from the companions of vice, still it is proceeding in the proper path—it opens a house of refuge for those who have been unfortunate, perhaps “in spite of themselves,” and leaves room for the exercise of whatever good may be remaining in the fallen victim. It must be a gratifying reflection to every benevolent mind, that, by such simple means as the provision of nightly shelter, so great an amount of distress has been alleviated, the suffering of which, without such aid, might, on many occasions, have terminated in exposure, destitution, and even in death.

The Poor Law Union Workhouse was opened for the reception of paupers on the 11th of May, 1841. The Union lies partly in the county of Antrim, and partly in the county of Down. There are seven ex-officio, and twenty-two elected Guardians, and they meet every Tuesday in the Board-room, at Malone.

The Society for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Working Classes was established in February, 1845. Its objects are the advancement of such measures as may conduce to the physical, intellectual, and moral improvement of the working classes. The honour of being the founder of this society belongs to Andrew Mulholland, Esq., who, on the occasion of his assuming the civic dignity of chief magistrate, brought the subject before the notice of the town, when his views were promptly seconded by the principal employers and gentlemen of wealth and influence. Among the first objects contemplated, were the erection of Public Baths and

Wash-houses, and the establishing of an Athenæum. The first of these is now in progress of execution, the estimated expense of which is £2,500.

The People's Reading and News-room was opened in June, 1846, for the purpose of encouraging a taste for reading and intellectual cultivation among the working classes. The number of papers and periodicals laid on the table is seventy, besides others occasionally supplied. The number of subscribers is above four hundred and fifty, and the daily average attendance about one hundred and twenty. The formation of a library is already commenced.

The Ulster Temperance Society was originated by that enlightened, persevering, Christian philanthropist, Dr. Edgar, and was the parent one of Europe.—In addition to the foregoing are the Belfast Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society; the Fund for the Relief of Sick, Maimed and Disabled Seamen; the Oddfellows' Society, Rechabites' Friendly Society, &c.

#### RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

The religious institutions, and auxiliaries to the various missionary societies of London, Edinburgh, and the Irish Protestant communities, are singular for numerousness. A Sunday School was commenced in January, 1802, and was supported by voluntary contributions.—The Sunday School Union was established in 1821, and assists in the revival and establishment of Sabbath Schools.—The Town Mission has been in operation upwards of eighteen years, and in 1846 employed seven missionaries. The object of this mission is, to employ licentiates of the General Assembly, who are to visit from house to house, distribute tracts, hold prayer meetings, and preach the Gospel in places suited for collecting numbers together.—The Society for Promoting the Religious Improvement of the Poor was formed in 1830, and the Association for the protection of the Rights of Conscience, in the same year.—The Northern Sunday School Association was instituted in 1839.—The Bible Society has its depository in Waring-street.—The depository of the Sunday School Society for Ireland is in High-street, for the sale of books at reduced

prices.—The Religious Tract Depository is in Waring-street. The Unitarian Society for the Diffusion of Christian Knowledge, has its depository in Rosemary-street—The Seaman's Friend Society has for its object the religious instruction of seamen, pilots, &c., and employs a Chaplain for preaching to mariners, and visiting vessels in port, and has a convenient place of worship in Pilot-street.

The religious societies in connexion with the Established Church are the Association for Discountenancing Vice, and Promoting the Knowledge and Practice of the Christian Religion ; Branch of the Church Missionary Society ; Branch of the Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews ; Branch of the Dublin Orphan Society ; Branch of the Ladies' Hibernian School Society ; the Church Education Society ; Down and Connor Clergy aid and additional Curates' Society ; Colonial Church Missionary Society ; Belfast Auxiliary to the Clergy Daughters' School ; Clergy Sons' School ; Prayer Book and Homily Society.

#### BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS.

The first Banking establishment formed in Belfast was in 1752, under the firm of Messrs. Mussenden, Adair, and Bateson. In 1787, a Bank was formed by Messrs. John Ewing, John Holmes, John Brown, and John Hamilton ; this firm issued notes payable in gold. In the same year, a second Bank was established, having for its partners Messrs. Waddell Cunningham, C. Rankin, W. Brown, and J. Campbell ; this firm also issued notes payable in gold. In 1793 a Discount Office was established by Messrs. Gilbert M'Ilveen & Co. The Banks now existing are the Northern Banking Company, Northern Bank Buildings, Castle-place, established in 1824 ; capital, £500,000. The Belfast Banking Company, Belfast Bank Buildings, Donegall-street, established in 1826 ; capital, £500,000. The Ulster Banking Company, Ulster Bank Buildings, Waring-street, established in 1836 ; capital, £1,000,000. The Branch of the Bank of Ireland, Donegall-place, established 1825, and the Branch of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, Donegall-street, established in 1826. No

Belfast Bank has suspended payment for at least a century back.

#### RETURN OF BELFAST BANKS OF ISSUE.

An account, pursuant to the Act 8 and 9 Vic., cap. 37. of the amount of Bank Notes authorised by law to be issued by the several Banks of Issue, and the Average Amount of Bank Notes in circulation, and of Coin held during the Four Weeks ending Saturday, the 2nd day of Jan., 1847.

| Name and Title.      | Circulation authorised by certificate. | Average Circulation during four weeks ending as above. |           |           | Average amt. of Gold and Silver Coin held during four Weeks ending above. |
|----------------------|--|--|-----------|-----------|---|
|                      |  | £5 and upwards.  | Under £5. | Total.    |   |
| Bank of Ireland..... | 3,738,428                              | 2,295,900  | 1,916,325 | 4,212,225 | 1,133,740   |
| Provincial Bank..... | 927,667                                | 409,119  | 789,529   | 1,196,648 | 588,909   |
| Belfast Bank.....    | 281,611                                | 43,139   | 356,589   | 399,728   | 214,689   |
| Northern Bank.....   | 243,440                                | 72,822   | 214,681   | 242,504   | 139,538   |
| Ulster Bank.....     | 311,079                                | 26,683   | 347,660   | 374,344   | 125,019   |

#### MARKETS.

In 1605, 1608, and 1611, James I. made grants of markets and fairs, which were all included in one grant to Arthur, Lord Chichester, in 1621, of a market to be held on Friday, two fairs annually, on the 1st and 2nd of August, and 28th and 29th of October; this grant was confirmed by Charles II. to Arthur, Earl of Donegall, in 1668. Though all the markets are, with the exception of the Brown Linen Hall, open daily, the principal market-day is Friday, the two fairs are now held on the 12th of August and 8th of November.

In 1665, the inhabitants of Malone, Falls, Dunmurry, and part of the parish of Coole, were exempted from the tolls and customs payable at "the Gates of Belfast," in consideration of their having contributed to the erection of the Market-house. This Market-house was situated at the intersection of High-street, and Corn-market. In later times it was occupied as a guard-room, or barrack, and was taken down about thirty-five years ago. It was at this Market-house that all the executions in Belfast took place for high treason, during the insurrectionary movement at the close of the eighteenth century. There was a second Market-house at the other extremity of Corn-market.

May's Market, off Cromac-street and May-street, is open for grain, oatmeal, and fruit, every week-day, and for poultry, eggs, butter, beef, and flax every Friday. Montgomery's Market, off Calender-street, is open for potatoes, beef, fish, vegetables, and fruit; and both York-street Market, off York-street and Great George's-street, and Ormond Market, off Patrick-street and James'-street, are open for the same departments, except that of fish. Butter Weigh-house, off Tomb-street, is appropriated solely to the butter trade.

Great George's-street Market, is appropriated to the provision trade, and specially to the trade in pigs and pork; but though commodious, it requires the aid of the wide streets and unstirring thoroughfare in its vicinity, to accommodate the enormous quantities of pork which are brought for sale.

Smithfield-square is the market arena for fat cattle, on Wednesday; for milch-cows, sheep, and pigs, on Friday; for skins, hay, straw, and a variety of miscellaneous wares, on every week-day; and nearly one-half of its area is occupied with furniture, marine stores, wearing apparel, and pedlary.

#### RAILWAYS.

The Ulster Railway was opened for traffic, in 1839, from Belfast to Lisburn. In January, 1842, it was opened to Lurgan, and subsequently in the same year to Portadown. This was the first movement of the railway world in Ulster, and the second in Ireland. The undertaking originated at a public meeting, held in Belfast, in the latter part of 1835. The object of the undertaking was, to connect the town and port of Belfast and the city of Armagh, passing through or near the towns of Lisburn, Moira, Lurgan, and Portadown, from which latter place canal communication exists to Newry, Lough Neagh, the Blackwater, and Upper Lough Erne. Measures have subsequently been taken to connect it with the Dublin and Drogheda line, thereby opening a railway communication from Belfast to the metropolis. The original capital was £600,000. The expenditure up to September, 1846, was £478,005, 14s. The cost of its construction up to a point twenty-four miles from Belfast, was £12,000 per mile for a single line of rails, including act of parliament, purchase



of land, buildings at the terminus, depots at the stations, carriages, engines, trucks, &c. It is now open to Moira, Lurgan, and Portadown. The line is thirty-six statute miles one furlong in length, and commences in the vicinity of Durham-street, the station fronting Glengall-street,—runs along the margin of the county Antrim, ascending the left side of the valley of the Lagan to a point in the northern vicinity of Moira, passing between Dunmurry,—where there is an intermediate station,—and Malone, touching the outskirts of Lisburn; crosses the Lagan in the northern vicinity of Moira—traverses a narrow wing of the county Down to a point between the Lagan and Lurgan—it thence traverses the county of Armagh to the city, passing the northern outskirts of Lurgan and Portadown, and making a subsequent detour, so as to pass about mid-way between Rich-hill and Loughgall to Armagh.

The following table shows the traffic on this line for the half year ending 31st August, 1846:—

|   |         |              |
|---|---------|--------------|
| First-class Passengers, ... ..          | 23,941  | £1,797 19 9  |
| Second-class do., ... ..                | 81,453  | 3,484 12 4   |
| Third-class do., ... ..                 | 252,105 | 7,022 0 5    |
|   | <hr/>   | <hr/>        |
|   | 357,499 | £12,304 12 6 |
| Carriage of Goods and Parcels, ... ..   |         | 4,485 15 9   |
|   |         | <hr/>        |
|   |         | £16,790 8 3  |
| Fees, ... ..                            |         | 13 2 6       |
|   |         | <hr/>        |
|   |         | £16,803 10 9 |
| Deduct cost of working the Line, ... .. |         | 6,218 13 0   |
|   |         | <hr/>        |

Balance of Nett Profits for the half-year, ... .. £10,584 17 9

Out of the balance of nett profits a dividend of nineteen shillings per share was declared, leaving a balance of £721 0s. 9d. to be carried to the reserved fund. The above table, when compared with that of the corresponding period of last year, shows a steady increase, both in passenger and goods traffic, thereby affording a satisfactory indication of still further increase for the time to come. At the above period, considerable progress had been made with the works on the extension line to Armagh, nearly one-half having been completed.

The Belfast and Ballymena Railway, with Branches to Carrickfergus and Randalstown, received the sanction of parliament in the session of 1845. The object of this undertaking is, to connect the port and town of Belfast with the rising and rapidly improving inland town of Ballymena, whence a railway is projected to Coleraine, to meet the Londonderry line, thereby opening a direct communication with the west and north-west parts of the kingdom. The Branch to Randalstown will meet the Castledawson Branch of the Armagh and Portrush line, by which a communication will be opened into the very centre of the kingdom. The Ballymena line is in course of rapid progress towards completion, and is expected to be opened for traffic in November, 1847. The total expenditure upon the line up to November, 1846, was £125,519 8s. 11d.

The Belfast and County Down Railway Company were incorporated by act of the session of 1846. The object of this undertaking is to connect the town of Belfast and the assize, market, and borough town of Downpatrick, with a Branch to Newtonards. This company have purchased the Belfast and Holywood atmospheric line, and will construct a line to the latter place, in conjunction with their trunk line. No works have, as yet, commenced upon any part of this line, but the company have advertised for contracts, to construct the line up to a point in the vicinity of Newtonards.

#### CONVEYANCES.

In an old Almanac, imprinted in Dublin, for the year 1742, we find the following:—"The Belfast Stage Coach sets up with James Smith, at the Unicorn, in Capel-street. In Winter it takes three days, and leaves Dublin at 8, and Belfast at 7 in the morning. In Summer it will take only two days, and set out from each place about 5 in the morning. This Coach will always run with 6 able horses. Sets out from Dublin every Monday, and from Belfast every Thursday."

The first mail-coach, between Belfast and Dublin, commenced running on the 5th of July, 1790. The fares by this conveyance were, in 1793, as follow:—from Dublin to Drogheda, 11s.; to Dunleer, 13s. 9d.; to Castlebellingham,

15s. 7d.; to Dundalk, 18s. 4d.; to Newry, £1 2s. 9d.; to Loughbrickland, £1 6s. 5d.; to Dromore, £1 10s. 1d.; to Hillsborough, £1 11s. 11d.; to Lisburn, £1 13s. 3d.; and to Belfast, £1 16s. 3d. This coach proceeded to Donaghadee, by way of Newtonards, the fare to the former place being £2 2s. 3d. In 1809, the first passenger coach commenced running between Downpatrick and Belfast, the fares by which were, for the inside, 11s. 4½d., and for the outside 7s. 7d.

The public conveyances by road, at the close of 1841, were four coaches to Dublin, three to Armagh, one to Ballynahinch, two to Ballymena, one to Carrickfergus, two and a car to Londonderry direct, one to Londonderry by way of Coleraine, one and an omnibus to Comber, one and a car to Donaghadee, one and a car to Downpatrick, one to Dungannon, one to Enniskillen, one to Killyleagh, one to Kilrea, two to Larne, one to Magherafelt and Cookstown, two and a car to Portaferry, one to Portglenone, and six cars to Bangor.

The first steam boat that crossed the channel to this port was from Liverpool, in 1819, but it was not till 1824 that steam-boats were employed in the transmission of merchandise. At the close of 1841, steamers sailed thrice a-week direct for Glasgow; every Tuesday for Stranraer and Glasgow; every Wednesday for Dublin; every Monday for Dublin, Falmouth, Plymouth, and London; thrice a-week for Liverpool; every Tuesday for Carlisle and Whitehaven, and every Monday and Friday for Fleetwood.

There are now, at the close of 1846, steam-packets trading regularly to and from this port as follow:—for London four screw steamers, the *Pearl*, *Emerald*, *Lady Sale*, and *Sea Queen*. There is also another building, *Erin's Queen*, which will be on the station early in the ensuing year.—For Liverpool, the steamers *Sea King*, *Windsor*, and *Tynwald*, three times each week.—For Fleetwood, the *Prince of Wales*, and *Princess Alice*, three times each week.—For Glasgow, the *Thetis*, and *Aurora*, four times each week. There is a fine new vessel nearly ready, the *Lyra*, which will also soon be on this station.—For Carlisle, the *Newcastle*, once every fortnight.—For Whitehaven, the *Queen*, or *Earl of Lonsdale*, once each week.—For Ardrossan, the *Fire-fly* and *Glow-worm*,

three times each week.—For Stranraer, the *Albion*, once a fortnight.—For Dublin, the *Royal William*, once each week.

#### MANUFACTURES.

Belfast owes much of its importance and its prosperity to the linen trade of Ulster, of which it has long been, and still is, the grand depot. Although we find mention of Irish linen in England as early as 1272, (*Temp.* Hen. III;) as appears by Maddox's History of the Exchequer, when there occurred a quarrel between two thieves who had stolen some of it at Winchester, yet we do not find it to have been particularly encouraged, as a branch of national manufacture, until 1637, when it was so by Lord Strafford, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1678, an act of parliament was passed, prohibiting the importation of linen from France, but this act was subsequently repealed by James II., who gave every encouragement to the French manufacture. In 1699, Mr. Lewis Crommelin, who, with a colony of about seventy French refugees, had settled in the neighbourhood of Lisburn, after the repeal of the edict of Nantes, obtained a patent for the establishment of the linen trade there, and the Irish parliament, by their vote of the 30th of October, 1707, confirmed the establishment of the trade in Ulster. In 1711, a Board of Trustees of the linen and hempen manufacture was established by act of parliament, and on the 13th of October, in the same year, this Board was summoned to Dublin, by the Duke of Ormond, the then Viceroy, when the charter of their appointment was read to them. In this year also, linen scarfs and hat-bands were first introduced and worn at funerals, in Ireland, in order to encourage the manufacture of the fabric.—In 1725 machinery was first invented for, and applied to, the operation of washing, rubbing, and beetling linen at Ballydrain, in the parish of Shankhill, or Belfast. The value of linen exported in 1730, was estimated at £400,000. In 1743, bounties were first granted on the exportation of Irish linen.—The only acid used in the process of bleaching, up to 1761, was *buttermilk*, and, in 1764, Dr. James Ferguson, of Belfast, received from the Linen Board a premium of £300, for the successful application of lime

in the bleaching of linen. In 1770 he introduced sulphuric acid; in 1780 potash was first used, and, in 1795, chloride of lime was introduced. In 1784, the value of brown linen sold in the markets of Ulster amounted to £1,214,360, and for some years preceding, and subsequent to, the Legislative Union, the exports amounted to £2,600,000, of which nearly one-half was the produce of the county Antrim. The business of the linen trade of the whole kingdom was, for a long time, transacted solely in Dublin, by factors resident there; but the serious inconvenience experienced by the numerous bleachers of Ulster, in consequence of the remoteness of the principal mart, prompted them to the establishment of a Linen Hall at Belfast, and in 1785, that spacious and handsome quadrangular building, the White Linen Hall, was erected, at an expense of £10,000.

In 1825, the celebrated Damask Manufactory of Mr. M. Andrews, at Ardoyne, was established. The elegance of the fabric soon extended its reputation, and obtained royal patronage, an extensive order having been executed for his late majesty William IV. Linens and sheetings of the stoutest fabric, for the London market, are likewise manufactured in this establishment. The proprietor obtained the gold medal of the Royal Dublin Society, for specimens of his productions shewn at their exhibitions of national manufactures, held in Dublin, in May, 1835.\* Mr. Robert Roddy, of the linen and damask warerooms, Donegall-street, Belfast, was also awarded medals of the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society, and the Royal Dublin Society, for specimens of the production of the Ardoyne looms exhibited by him.

In 1832, the bounty on the exportation of Irish linen was discontinued. In 1835, as appears by the return of the Railway Commissioners, there were shipped from Ireland 70,209,572 yards of linen, the value of which was £3,730,854.

In 1830, the spinning of linen yarn by machinery was first introduced here by the enterprise of the Messrs. Mulholland. In 1841, the steam-power mills engaged in the most important trade of Flax-spinning, in Belfast and its vicinity, amounted to twenty-five. The principal one of these, that of the Messrs. Mulholland, in York-street, employs 1020 persons; annually

consumes 800 tons of flax, and produces yarn to the estimated value of £80,000 to £100,000 a-year. The annual expenditure, in wages alone, amounts to nearly £16,000. A large addition has been made to this mill during the present year, which, when completed, will cause an increase of one-fourth in every department of this magnificent and truly valuable concern.—The town contains within itself the appliances for producing, from the elementary process on to completion, the various fabrics of the linen and hempen manufacture, from the finest cambric to the coarsest canvas. In addition to the many flax-spinning mills, large factories exist for weaving shirtings, drills, Osnaburghs, sacking, and other linen fabrics.

From 1785 till 1824, minute statistics were made and preserved of the yearly condition of the linen trade; but since 1825, when the commercial intercourse between Ireland and Great Britain was resolved into a coasting trade, the statistics either ceased to be made or became confounded and of no practicable utility. In the beginning of the reign of William III., the annual value of the linen exported from Ireland was only £6,000. During the effluxion of the eighteenth century, up to about 1796, the trade made steady and rapid progress; and then, when the annual value of exported linen was about £3,697,503, the trade reached a culminating point; yet in 1809, though the number of yards exported was 2,800,837 fewer than in 1796, the annual value, in consequence of advance in price, was £5,853,917. Subsequently to 1809, the trade very materially declined; about the years 1820-1824, it sunk comparatively low; and during some subsequent years, it continued low, though fluctuating; but during the last sixteen or seventeen years, it has revived and progressed; and now it is once more in a decidedly prosperous condition,—more prosperous, perhaps, than at any previous period of its history. At present the annual value of the linen cloth manufactured in Ulster cannot be less than £4,000,000. The number of persons employed in all branches of the manufacture is about 170,000; it may be safely asserted, that 500,000 derive their subsistence from it. The annual amount of wages may be calculated at £1,200,000;

and the total capital employed, in all branches of the business, is estimated at £5,000,000 sterling. The fall that has taken place in the price of linen cloth since 1823, has been extraordinary. The article which was then sold at 2s. 1d. per yard could, in 1831, be bought at 1s. 4d., and, in 1841, at 11½d., whilst at the present time it is worth about 8d.! The great increase in the quantity exported, is mainly attributable to the substitution of mill-spun for hand-spun yarn, by which a considerable diminution in the cost of the production has been effected. The introduction of machinery for spinning linen yarn, although, doubtless, affording employment to a large portion of the population, has been productive of any thing rather than improvement in the condition of the linen weaver. Towards the end of last century, and subsequently, while spinning by hand continued remunerative, the linen weaver in the rural districts enjoyed, for an Irish peasant, a high degree of comfort. Generally possessed of a small holding of land, the loom supplied himself and his sons with regular employment, in the intervals of agricultural labour; while the females of his family found nearly constant occupation in the spinning of flax, often the produce of his own land. A web, when woven, was readily disposed of at one of the numerous markets attended by the linen merchants. The introduction of machinery necessarily effected a total change. Female labour was at once rendered comparatively valueless, and the domestic manufacture of yarn comparatively profitless. The weaver now felt himself obliged to enter into an engagement with a manufacturer, a class in the trade previously almost unknown, from whom he receives the yarn, and to whom he returns the web when woven. A large share of the profit, which formerly accrued to the weaver, has been thus transferred to other quarters.

“Great and important changes,” says a highly respectable authority on the subject, “have resulted from the abandonment of the system of bounties on exports, from the improvement in machinery, and from the application of more extended capital; all of which have, however, tended to expel the smaller manufacturers, dealers, and bleachers, and to diminish profits; but they have secured to the consumer a more

perfect and regularly-manufactured fabric, and at a vastly cheaper rate; and they have enabled us to see more clearly our capabilities of carrying on the manufacture in competition with the linen manufacturers on the Continent. The result of the whole is satisfactory. We are now certain that we can manufacture almost every description of linen, except lace and fine cambric, as cheap and as well, perhaps cheaper and better, than any other country. The improvements in bleaching, also, having been placed on a more secure basis by science and experience, have contributed to raise the character of our goods, and I feel confident those causes will continue further to operate in advancing the character of Irish linens. The bounties on export, though so long regarded as the only support of our manufacture of coarse fabrics, encouraged the production of extremely low and worthless articles, on the value of which the bounty became a handsome profit; and such goods were, of course, despised when brought into comparison with those of the Continent in foreign markets. A better description is now made for export, and the character of the Irish manufacture is advancing. The machinery for spinning yarn has been improved to a degree that has outrun the most sanguine expectations. The extension of spinning-mills is now most rapid. The spinning by machinery has also tended to encourage the application of large capital by the manufacturer."

The bleach-greens forty years ago were twice as numerous as at present; yet those which now exist do much more work; and there are ten can be named in the county of Antrim, which are more than equal to forty of the largest in 1790. "I know ten establishments" says a highly respectable authority, in 1840, "that have, within the last year, exported more than £50,000 value each of linen to foreign markets. I also know four manufacturers that have, within the last year, manufactured upwards of £30,000 in value each." Since 1833, upwards of twenty flax or linen-yarn mills have been erected, two formed by the adaptation of quondam cotton-mills, and two formed by the adaptation of quondam print-fields.

The cotton manufacture, of which Belfast is the centre



and principal seat in the North of Ireland, was introduced here in 1777, by Messrs. Joy, M'Cabe, and M'Cracken, who erected buildings and machinery, introduced the use of the fly-shuttle, and in 1779, commenced the manufacture of calicoes, dimities, and Marseilles quiltings. In 1784, a mill for spinning twist by water-power was erected at Whitehouse, by Messrs. Nathaniel Wilson and Nicholas Grimshaw, and so rapidly did the manufacture thenceforth increase, that, in 1800, it afforded employment or maintenance, directly or indirectly, to 27,000 persons, within a circuit drawn upon a radius of ten miles from the centre of the town. In 1811, the number of bags of cotton-wool imported to the town was 14,320, the number exported 3,007, leaving 11,313 for home consumption. But so greatly have the comparatively cheaper productions of England and Scotland, and the profitable substitution of linen for cotton yarn, forced down the Irish cotton manufacture, since 1811, that, in 1837, not more than 8,700 bags of cotton-wool were imported into all Ireland. In 1838, the number of cotton-weavers in the town and surrounding districts, was about 10,000. In 1841 only three cotton-mills existed in the town and suburbs, employing less than 1,000 persons; and, excepting the spinning of yarn in these mills, the cotton trade of Belfast is now confined chiefly to the production of muslins or jaconets, twilled cords, unions, a few ginghams, harness shawls, and checked handkerchiefs, by hand-loom labour.

Paper-making was first commenced at Dunmurry, and was afterwards established and pushed rapidly into increase in the suburb of Cromac. In 1749, Mr. Francis Joy received a parliamentary grant of £200, as a reward for his improvements in the manufacture of paper. Mr. Joy introduced the first paper engine into Ulster.—Rope-making and the manufacture of Canvas were introduced here in 1758.—In 1776 Glass-making was commenced, and the first Glass-house erected at Ballymacarrett, and after being abandoned in the department of window-glass, was prosecuted in that of flint-glass. Very extensive glass-houses have been erected, and are at present at full work in the manufacture of Flint, Crown, and Sheet-glass.—In 1784, the manufacture of sail-

cloth was introduced.—Ship building was commenced in 1791, by Messrs. William Ritchie and Brothers, previous to which time all vessels belonging to the port were built and repaired in England or Scotland.

Soap and Candle making for exportation yielded, in 1810, an annual produce worth about £10,000.—Salt was, at one time, an article of extensive manufacture.—Stocking-making employed about thirty years ago nearly two hundred persons.—Leather, tanned in Belfast, was long in high repute, and there were, at one time, no less than thirty-six tan-yards in full operation. These and other departments of manufacture have had a various fate, some greatly augmenting, some decreasing, and some remaining proportionately stationary; but their very number and variety, and the spirit with which most of them were introduced and put to the test, pleasingly evince the enterprise and industry of the community.

Some idea of the manufactures of Belfast may be formed by glancing at the statistics of the town's steam-engines in 1838. The number of these was fifty; their aggregate horse-power was 1,274; and eleven of the whole were erected in 1838,—seventeen in 1835, 1836, and 1837,—ten between 1830 and the close of 1834,—and twelve between 1806 and the close of 1827. Eighteen of the engines of aggregately six hundred and ninety horse-power, or a fraction more than one-half of the total aggregate of power, were employed in spinning linen-yarn; three, of aggregately ninety-two horse-power, in spinning cotton-yarn; one of sixty horse-power, in spinning linen and cotton yarn; one of sixty horse-power, in spinning and weaving cotton; one of thirty horse-power, in bleaching; one of fifteen horse-power, in bleaching and dyeing; two of unitedly forty horse-power, in calico printing and dyeing; five of aggregately sixty-seven horse-power, in foundery; one of sixteen horse-power, in ship foundery; three of aggregately seventy-six horse-power, in grinding wheat; one of ten horse-power, in grinding oats, barley, &c.; one of ten horse-power, in making paper; one of forty horse-power, in making whiskey; one of eight horse-power, in making starch; one of six horse-power, in grinding bones for manure; one of eight horse-power, in making lime; one of

eight horse-power, in making machinery; one of four horse-power, in making sheet-lead; five of aggregately seventeen horse-power, in making files, grinding drugs and coffee, making stucco, Roman cement, &c.; and one of sixteen horse-power, in cleansing the docks.

#### COMMERCE.

The trade of the port has been rapid in its growth, and uniformly increasing in its progress; it originally rose into importance, on the purchase by the crown, in 1637, of the privileges possessed by the corporation of Carrickfergus, (of which port Belfast was only a dependency) of importing merchandise at a much lower rate of duty than was paid at any other port. After the completion of this purchase, the custom-house of Carrickfergus was removed to Belfast. In 1709 the amount of custom's duties did not exceed £1215; in 1763 the gross customs, including excise, amounted to £32,900; in 1784 they amounted, exclusive of excise, to £101,376; in 1810 they amounted to £425,174 18s. 2½d.; and though since the third of these dates, they have, with some fluctuation in years of difficulty, undergone a gradual rise, yet, during several years preceding 1838, they averaged rather less than £400,000; in the year ending October, 1840, they amounted to £361,502, and in 1844, to £366,415.

The Custom's duties collected in Belfast for the year ending 5th January, 1845, amounted to £366,246, and for the corresponding period of 1846 to £372,853, giving an increase on the latter over the former of £6,607.—The excise duties collected in Lisburn Collection, of which Belfast is the head and principal seat, for the year ending 5th January, 1845, amounted to £237,116, and for the corresponding period of 1846 they amounted to £266,724, being an increase of £29,608.—The amount of Postage collected in 1844 was, £4,902 8s. 7d., and in 1845 it was £5,097 2s. 4d., being an increase of £84 13s. 9d.

In 1810, the exports exceeded those of the previous year to the value of £537,249 15s. 9d., and amounted, in total, to £2,904,590 19s. In 1835, the exports amounted to £4,341,794 3s. 7d.; and the imports to £3,695,437 11s. 10d.

The most valuable items enumerated in the exports of that year were—

| Articles.                   | Quantity.            | Value.    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Corn, Meal, and Flour ...   | 285,953 cwt. ...     | £148,957  |
| Provisions ...              | 340,226 „ ...        | 906,587   |
| Linen yarn ...              | 43,525 „ ...         | 40,360    |
| Feathers, Flax, and Tow ... | 73,652 „ ...         | 186,884   |
| Cotton Manufactures ...     | 7,363 packs ...      | 146,260   |
| Linen Manufactures ...      | 53,881,000 yards ... | 2,694,000 |
| Horses ...                  | 2,374 ...            | 35,580    |
| Eggs ...                    | 2,850,000 ...        | 5,930     |

And the most valuable items in the imports were—

| Articles.                       | Value.   |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Linen-yarn ...                  | £960,000 |
| Woollen Manufactures ...        | 480,000  |
| Tea ...                         | 274,184  |
| Haberdashery ...                | 188,000  |
| Sugar ...                       | 176,778  |
| Coals, culm, and cinders ...    | 141,250  |
| Cotton-wool ...                 | 128,277  |
| Tobacco ...                     | 94,229   |
| Corn, Malt, Meal, and Flour ... | 92,690   |

In 1682, the tonnage of the vessels belonging to the port was 3,307; in 1827 the registered tonnage was 21,557; and, in 1835, it was 32,545; the tonnage of the last of these years was distributed among two hundred and ninety-three vessels.

In 1842, its relative position with Dublin and Cork, as to the number of vessels, and amount of tonnage, was:—

|             | Vessels. | Total tonnage. |
|-------------|----------|----------------|
| Belfast ... | 250 ...  | 44,458         |
| Cork ...    | 221 ...  | 29,765         |
| Dublin ...  | 134 ...  | 23,072         |

By the foregoing it will be seen that Belfast exceeded Cork in the number of vessels by twenty-nine, and in tonnage by 14,693 tons; and it exceeded Dublin in the number of vessels by one hundred and sixteen, and in tonnage by 23,072 tons.

The number and tonnage of sailing vessels registered as belonging to the port in 1844, was, 92 under fifty tons, and 265 of fifty tons and upwards; their aggregate tonnage, 49,237; steamers, eight, of 1,154 tons. The number and tonnage of sailing vessels in 1845 was, vessels under fifty tons 117, tonnage, 3,873; of fifty tons and upwards, vessels, 269, tonnage, 49,688.

In 1747, it employed only three vessels in the cross-channel trade, collectively of 198 tons burden. From that period it appears to have rapidly increased, and, since the more direct and expeditious intercourse with the principal ports of Great Britain, afforded by the introduction of steam navigation, introduced for the transmission of merchandise in 1824, has absorbed a considerable portion of the Foreign and Colonial trade. The principal exports connected with this branch are, linen cloth, manufactured cotton goods, agricultural produce, &c. The chief imports are, tea, sugar, cotton-wool, and various articles for the use of the manufacturers, bleachers, and dyers; also British manufactured goods, and articles of general merchandise. Its extensive trade in provisions is comparatively of recent introduction, and affords a striking demonstration of the great improvements in the system of agriculture, which have taken place since the commencement of the present century. The number of vessels that entered inwards from British ports, during the year 1835, was 2,949, and the number that cleared outwards was 1,534. In the cross-channel trade, the number and tonnage of sailing vessels that entered the port in 1845 was, 3,637 vessels, 236,486 tons; and of steamers, 955 vessels, 240,917 tons. The number of sailing vessels outwards during the same period was, 874 of 50,081 tons; and of steamers 969 of 242,452 tons.

The coasting trade is also of great importance. In 1831, the export tonnage coastwise was 155,418; and, in 1834, it was 174,894.

The trade with the United States is likewise very considerable, as well as with British North America. The chief exports are linen cloth, manufactured cotton goods, whiskey, blue, starch, &c.; the imports are timber and staves, cotton-wool, ashes, and flax and clover-seeds.—The trade with the West Indies commenced in 1740.—The trade with the Baltic consists in the importation of tallow, timber, ashes, hemp, and flax. Tallow and hides are also imported from Odessa; mats, pitch, tar, flax, and flaxseed, from Archangel; and wine, fruit, lemons, and lime-juice, olive and other oils, barilla, and brimstone from the Mediterranean, and the

Levant. A limited trade has recently been opened with China, from which country Messrs. William M'Clure & Son imported the first cargo of teas, that reached Belfast, after the abolition of the East India Company's monopoly.

In 1831, the export tonnage to foreign ports was 35,335; and, in 1834, it was 31,665. In 1831, the import tonnage from foreign ports was 2,537; and, in 1834, it was 2,395. In the British, Colonial, and Foreign trade, the number and tonnage of vessels that entered inwards, in 1844, was, 210 vessels, 46,330 tons; and outwards, 133 vessels, 32,637 tons.

NUMBER AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS THAT ENTERED AND CLEARED OUT FROM AND TO THE COLONIES AND FOREIGN PORTS, BETWEEN THE 31st DEC., 1844, AND 31st DEC., 1845 :—

|   |     |     |     |        | Vessels. | Tons. |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|-------|
| British and Irish Vessels inwards from Colonies | ... | 107 | ... | 36,581 |          |       |
| " " " outwards to "                             | ... | 79  | ... | 27,870 |          |       |
| " " " inwards from Foreign Ports                | ... | 64  | ... | 8,558  |          |       |
| " " " outwards to "                             | ... | 61  | ... | 16,053 |          |       |
| Foreign Vessels inwards from                    | "   | 57  | ... | 8,691  |          |       |
| " " outwards to                                 | "   | 59  | ... | 9,682  |          |       |

In 1838, the estimated annual amount of inland carriage to the town was 52,000 tons for exportation; 47,250 tons of agricultural produce for local consumption as food; 10,450 tons of agricultural produce for the use of two distilleries and nine breweries; 350 tons of exciseable articles, not directly imported; and, 47,250 tons of stone, lime, turf, &c. And the estimated annual amount of inland carriage from the town, at the same period, was 93,000 tons of imports, 7,000 tons of produce of breweries and distilleries; and 107,000 tons of coal, manure, &c.

The Chamber of Commerce was originally established in 1783; its meetings were suspended from 1794 to 1802, since which time they have been resumed without interruption, greatly to the benefit of trade, and the interest of the town.

#### HARBOUR.

The port is very advantageously situated at the debouch of the Lagan into Belfast Lough, which is a large and beautiful marine inlet, between the counties of Antrim and Down. It looks out upon the North Channel, opposite the Rhinns

of Galloway, in Scotland, and may be regarded as entering either between Black Head in Antrim, and Nout Head in Down, or between White Head in Antrim, and Salt Hill Point in Down. The two headlands on the Antrim shore, and also the two on the Down shore, are respectively two miles and three-quarters asunder. The width of the exterior entrance is upwards of seven miles, and of the interior about five miles. The distance from White Head, or from the line between it and Salt Hill Point, to the head of the lough, or the embouchure of the Lagan, is  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The width opposite Gray's Point,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles up from the interior entrance, contracts to a little upwards of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and this width is maintained with little diminution to very near the head of the lough. The direction of the bay upwards, is, in a general view, south-west; but over the last 5 miles, it gently curves so as to terminate nearly due south. The bay is the *Vinderius* of Ptolomey. Its scenery, on both shores, and from head to foot is strikingly beautiful. An illiberal or prejudiced stranger, who enters Ireland by sailing up to Belfast, is confounded by the brilliancy of both the natural and artificial features, and is liable, under the rebound of feeling, to imagine that all he has ever heard of Ireland's bogs and poverty is a jest, and that he is entering one of the most charming and opulent countries in the world. Elegant mansions, neat villas, fine plantations, verdant parks, luxuriant fields, smiling villages, and a great provincial metropolis, occupy the immediate shores; green hills frilled with hedge-rows and chequered with wood, roll backward in great variety of outline and in fine perspective on the side of Down; and the romantic cliffs and bold high hills of the frontier line of the great array of northern basalt tower up to a sky-line along the Antrim side, and rise behind Belfast to an altitude of 1,567 feet above sea-level. The chief seats of population on the shore, additional to Belfast are Carrickfergus, four miles up from White Head, Bangor, two miles up from Salt Hill Point, and Holywood, six miles up from Bangor.

The lough is so sheltered from prevailing winds by the heights on the west and north-west, that it almost always enjoys a comparative calm. The pool of Garmoyle, one

mile from Holywood, nearly two from the Antrim shore, and about four and a half from Carrickfergus, affords excellent anchorage; and vessels can here ride afloat at low water, even within a cable's length of banks which are then dry, and which become covered by the tide. The old channel from this point to the quays of Belfast was winding, intricate, minutely indicated by buoys, and artificially maintained at thirteen feet depth of water by the efforts of the Ballast Board. But in 1840, a cut, or new channel, was opened, which, besides being straighter, shorter, and more practicable, avoids two of the most difficult sinuosities of the old channel. This cut is about a mile in length; it commences at the reach below the Mile-water, and extends to the entrance of Dunbar's Dock; it has a depth of ten feet at low-water, and of twenty-one feet at high-water, of average tides; it was executed by contract, at the cost of £40,000; and it enables vessels drawing nine feet of water to reach the lower quays in any state of even ebb-tide. In 1841 a bill was introduced to parliament to empower the Ballast Board to conduct a series of improvements in connexion with the noble change effected by the new cut; and, among the several measures contemplated, is a continuation of the new channel to Garraoyle, with embankments, which, when finished, and lights placed along the embankments, steamers can fly up and down with as much facility and security as a carriage in Donegall-street or York-street. Other improvements are, the widening of the quays of Belfast harbour from Ritohie's Dock to the Queen's Bridge across the Lagan, the deepening of the channel in front of the present wharves, and the filling up of private docks at right angles of the river.

The affairs of the Harbour are governed by a corporation originally constituted by act of parliament in 1785, which was repealed by an act obtained in 1831 for "Preserving and Improving the Port and Harbour of Belfast," and consisting of the "lord of the castle," the sovereign of the town, the members of parliament for the counties of Antrim and Down, and the boroughs of Belfast, Carrickfergus, and Downpatrick, and sixteen other persons named in the act. The Earl of Belfast, now Marquis of Donegall, and Lord Edward Chi-



chester were made members for life, and four of the remaining fourteen were annually to go out of office, and any of the whole should *de facto* retire on ceasing to reside within seven miles of the Commercial Buildings. The electors are the members of the old harbour corporation, not named for the new, and also all persons resident within seven miles of the Commercial Buildings "who shall be, and have been the owners for six months previous of fifty tons registered shipping, engaged in the coasting, channel, or foreign trade;" and likewise all persons, within the same limits, "who shall have been assessed for twelve months previous, and who shall have paid to the Commissioners of Police of the said town of Belfast, police tax to the amount of £4 per annum."

The objects of obtaining the new act, of 1831, were to enable the Commissioners to purchase quays and grounds for the improvement of the harbour, and to render the enactments suitable to the state of the trade of the port, which had increased ten-fold since the passing of the former act. The annual income of the port arises from pilotage, tonnage, quayage rates on imports and exports, ballastage, &c. In 1843, the harbour receipts amounted to £21,153, and the expenditure to £29,572; and, for the year ending January, 1846, the income was £24,756, and the debt £155,470; the pilotage alone amounted to £3,376.

Below Queen's Bridge a fine range of quays extends along the north-west bank of the river, and during the years 1845-46, a corresponding range of splendid quays were formed, on the north-east-bank, in the county of Down side, parallel with those on the north-west bank. A spacious graving dock was completed, in 1826, by the Harbour Commissioners, at an expense of £26,000, which is sufficiently capacious to accommodate the largest vessels frequenting the harbour; below this is Dunbar's Dock, completed in 1832, under an act of parliament obtained for the purpose, in 1829, by Messrs. Holmes and Dunbar, at a cost of £35,000. This dock is four hundred yards in length, by one hundred in breadth. The ship *Dumfriesshire*, of 873 tons register, and carrying upwards of 1,400 tons of timber sailed up to Dunbar's Dock, even previous to the formation of the new channel, without unloading

any part of her cargo. There is a patent slip in one of the ship-yards. Vessels drawing upwards of fourteen feet of water, can, at almost any time, reach Donegall-quay,—the quay appropriated to steamers,—and can lie there at moorage.

The largest vessel belonging either to Belfast, or any other Irish port, is the *Alfred* of 1,400 registered tonnage, and the largest vessel ever built at Belfast was the *Hindoo*, East India-man, of 443 tons register, but there is one at present on the stocks which will greatly exceed the *Hindoo*, and be the largest vessel ever built in Ireland.

The following statement exhibits the vast increase of the Shipping, Tonnage, and Revenue of the Port in the last sixty years :—

| Year |     | Vessels |     | Tonnage |     | Revenue |
|------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|
| 1786 | ... | 772     | ... | 34,287  | ... | £1,553  |
| 1795 | ... | 801     | ... | 52,276  | ... | 2,367   |
| 1805 | ... | 840     | ... | 60,505  | ... | 3,728   |
| 1815 | ... | 1,134   | ... | 91,371  | ... | 4,189   |
| 1825 | ... | 2,060   | ... | 183,441 | ... | 6,200   |
| 1835 | ... | 2,730   | ... | 290,769 | ... | 9,325   |
| 1845 | ... | 3,655   | ... | 445,537 | ... | 25,000  |

The navigation inland is called the “Lagan Navigation,” and proceeds from the harbour up the Lagan. It was originated in 1733, and placed under the direction of the Inland Navigation Corporation. In 1752, it was placed under the management of the sovereign of Belfast and other local commissioners, but since 1780 it has been under the exclusive controul of the proprietors of the joint-stock of the undertaking, incorporated under the title of “The Company of Undertakers of the Lagan Navigation.” By an act of 54th Geo. III. the proprietors were invested with a small duty on beer and spirits in the excise collection of Lisburn, since commuted for an annual money payment out of the consolidated fund. The Act of 1 and 2 William IV., c. 55, s. 101, for the improvement of Belfast Harbour, made certain provisions also for the improvement of the Lagan Navigation.

The Lagan Navigation, tracing it upwards, ascends the river Lagan from Belfast Harbour to the south-eastern vicinity of Lisburn; and then commencing to be all canal, it first describes a crescent curvature, with the concavity to the north, within the county of Down,—and it next describes

another but less bold curvature, with the concavity to the south, chiefly within the county of Antrim, but partly on the boundary between Antrim and Down, to the south-east corner of Lough Neagh, at a point two and a-half miles due north of Lurgan. The length of the navigation is twenty-two miles ; the rate of lockage is 8½ feet ; and the cost of construction was £96,000, or £4,363 per mile ; the rate is 9½d. per ton for the whole voyage. Its interior landing-places are the bleach-greens, mills, and factories between Belfast and Lisburn ; the town of Lisburn ; the lime-kilns and brick-fields in the vicinity of Lisburn ; the towns of Hillsborough and Moira ; the distilleries, breweries, and lime-kilns, in the vicinity of these towns ; the villages of Magheralin, Soldierstown, and Aghalee ; and the town of Lurgan. It likewise affords means of communication with all the shores of Lough Neagh, with the Blackwater and its navigations, and with the Newry navigation and the Bann. The principal goods carried upwards are coals, foreign timber, herrings, salt, groceries, iron, bleaching-stuffs, spirits, barm, and bark ; and the principal articles carried down are grain and flour, sand, stones, fire-brick, tiles, and earthenware ; potatoes also formed a very important item in the articles of traffic previous to their failure. No passage boat plys on the navigation, and none, it is thought, could ever be profitably established.

#### MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

In 1613, the inhabitants of Belfast were incorporated by royal charter of James I., under the title of "The Sovereign Free Burgesses and Commonalty of the Borough of Belfast." The inhabitants were indebted for their incorporation to the favour shewn by James I. to Sir Arthur Chichester, to whom, in the previous year, 1612, a grant of the castle, and an extensive territory surrounding, had been made. In the 4th James II., on a seizure of the franchises, a charter was granted, by which the privileges of the corporation were greatly abridged, and the number of Burgesses increased to thirty-five. George II., in the 33d year of his reign, also granted a charter, which, however, is only an insipidus of the charter of James I. The "old corporation," (for so it

must now be termed) having been superseded by the Irish Municipal Act, consisted of a sovereign, lord of the castle, constable of the castle, twelve other free burgesses, and an unlimited number of freemen, assisted by a town-clerk and two serjeants-at-mace. The sovereign was annually chosen on the 24th of June, by the free burgesses, from three of their own body, nominated by the lord of the castle, or, in default of such nomination, elected by themselves, and was sworn into office before the lord, or in his absence, the constable of the castle, on Michaelmas-day.

The lord of the castle was a member of the corporation by tenure of the castle of Belfast; the office was held by the Marquis of Donegall, in whose family it continued since the date of the charter; the constable was appointed by instrument, under seal of the lord of the castle, and became a free burgess. The other free burgesses were chosen, as vacancies occurred, by the sovereign and the remainder of their body; the town-clerk was elected by the sovereign and burgesses, and the serjeants-at-mace were chosen by the corporation at large.

The freedom of the borough was acquired only by the gift of the sovereign and free burgesses, but immediately preceding the date of reform, only six freemen were known to be in existence.

The borough returned two representatives to the Irish parliament from the date of its incorporation till the Union, after which it sent one to the imperial legislature, but its original number was restored by the act of the 2nd of William IV. c. 88, passed to amend the representation, previous to which, it was, in spite of its size and great importance, a mere pocket borough of the Marquis of Donegall; in 1841, its constituency was 4,234, all of whom, except three burgesses, were £10 householders; in 1846, the constituency is set down at 8,998. The right of election was formerly vested exclusively in the free burgesses, but by the Irish Reform act has been extended to £10 householders.

The ancient limits of the borough extended to the Mile-water stream on the north, to the Blackstaff river on the south, and to the Lagan on the east, but its western boun-

dary was undefined; the entire limits are alledged to have been a circle drawn upon a radius of three miles.

The limits under the police act, 40 George III., were at first co-extensive with lighting and paving, but were subsequently pushed into town-parks and lands not included in any of the county constablewicks. The limits under the Harbour Act of 1831 include as much of the county Down as lies within five hundred yards of the quays, giving a jurisdiction to the judges of assize, and the magistrates of the county Antrim, over all offences committed within the port and harbour, or within five hundred yards of the quays, in the county of Down, as if such offences had been committed in the county of Antrim. The limits under the Boundary Act, 2 and 3 William IV., cut off some small western outskirts of the town, extend from the Mile-water on the north to the Blackstaff river on the south, and comprehend the whole townland of Ballymacarrett.

The town was first lighted with gas, in 1822, from works belonging to a joint-stock company, established by act of parliament for the purpose. At what precise period the streets were first publicly lighted is uncertain, but, in 1686, it was ordered by the corporation that "from the 29th of September till the 25th of March, except during moon-light, to prevent danger in walking the streets, each inhabitant should hang out from his door, or window, a lanthorn with a candle for three hours." In 1759, the sovereign and burgesses petitioned parliament for assistance to light the town with lamps, a measure which, in all probability, was soon after carried into effect.

In 1768, the first regular supply of water was brought to the town by George Macartney, from the upper or tuck-mill-dam; he had it conveyed through wooden pipes, and constructed three conduits in the streets, for the convenience of the inhabitants. The present Water Commissioners were incorporated by act of parliament in 1840, under whom the splendid works, from which the town is now supplied, were constructed.

By the Irish Municipal Act, the borough was divided into five wards, called Dock, St. Anne's, Smithfield, St. George's,

and Cromac; and appointed each ward to return two aldermen and six councillors, from the former of whom the mayor is chosen.

On the 25th of October, 1842, the first election of aldermen and councillors took place, and on the 1st of the November following they met for the first time, as a corporate body, to transact business, and proceeded to the election of mayor, which distinguished mark of respect was conferred on George Dunbar, Esq., formerly one of the representatives in parliament for the borough.

The acts for paving, lighting, and cleansing the town, and establishing a nightly watch, are of the 40th and 56th George III., and appointed the sovereign, the burgesses, and twelve other persons as Commissioners of Police. These have, however, been superseded by the Town Council, who have a Committee for Police Affairs chosen from among their own body. The average police income can be raised to upwards of £10,000 a-year. There are two separate rates levied, one the police rate for watching, paving, cleansing, &c.; the other the water rate. Their amounts were:—

| Year. | Police. |         |      | Water. |        |       | Total. |         |       |
|-------|---------|---------|------|--------|--------|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| 1841  | ...     | £11,839 | 0 0  | ...    | £2,874 | 4 5   | ...    | £14,713 | 4 5   |
| 1842  | ...     | 11,869  | 15 0 | ...    | 2,841  | 14 4  | ...    | 14,710  | 9 4   |
| 1843  | ...     | 11,235  | 13 0 | ...    | 2,428  | 5 8   | ...    | 13,663  | 18 8  |
| 1844  | ...     | 11,168  | 8 0  | ...    | 4,330  | 3 7   | ..     | 15,498  | 11 7  |
| 1845  | ..      | 11,958  | 5 0  | ..     | 4,106  | 11 11 | ..     | 16,064  | 16 11 |

The borough rates received and expended from the 27th June, 1843, till the 1st September, 1844, were, receipts £2,700 14s. 10d., expenditure £2,669 3s. 6d.; and up to the year ending 1st September, 1845, the receipts amounted to £1,685 6s. 6d., and the expenditure to £842 9s.

The corporate property of the borough, under the old corporation, with the exception of the interest which the sovereign possessed in the market tolls and the market-place of Smithfield has all vanished; and is the subject of a history too obscure, intricate, and multiplex to be of any interest in the present work.

The charter granted a court of record for the recovery of debts not exceeding twenty pounds, arising within the borough or its liberty, to be held every Thursday, before the sovereign,

but it has long since fallen into disuse. The manor-court held every third Thursday in the Court-house, before the seneschal, who is appointed by the Marquis of Donegall, as lord of the manor of Belfast, within which the borough is situated, has jurisdiction over the entire parish, and over the townland of Ballynafeigh in the county of Down, for the recovery of debts not exceeding twenty pounds: the prison of this court was abolished in 1828, and defaulters are now sent to the county gaol. Courts leet for the manor are also held by the seneschal; at that held in May, constables, applotters, and appraisers are appointed for the ensuing year.

A court of Petty Sessions, presided over by the mayor, resident stipendiary, and other magistrates is held every day at noon in the Town Hall. A police court, for custody cases, is held every day, at ten o'clock, in the Police-office, Poultry-square, at which the mayor and police magistrate preside.

The county Quarter Sessions are held, in conjunction with other places, four times in the year, for the registry of votes, the recovery of debts, and the punishment of minor offences. At this court the assistant barrister determines civil bills, under his statutable jurisdiction, to the amount of twenty pounds.

The police regulations are attended to partly by the corporate officers of the borough, and partly by the general establishment of the county of Antrim.—The establishment under the chief officers of the watch consists of 29 day, and 64 night constables, and five men in the office.—County business belongs in no department to Belfast, but altogether to Carrickfergus.

#### STATISTICS.

The census of 1841 includes, under the name of Belfast, and exhibits as the component parts of a district territory or separate jurisdiction, the three districts of Belfast-Shankhill, within the municipal boundary, and Belfast-Knockbreda or Ballymacarrett, within the municipal boundary, and Belfast-Shankhill, without the municipal boundary. All our statistics for 1841, or the great bulk of the whole statistics which are of any value, must in consequence assume the town to con-

sist of three parts.—Area of the whole, 1,872 acres;—of Belfast-Shankhill, within the borough, 966 acres;—of Belfast-Knockbreda or Ballymacarrett, within the borough, 576 acres;—of Belfast-Shankhill, without the borough, 330 acres.

Population of the ancient borough as built upon, in 1821, 37,277; in 1831, 53,287. An intelligent resident, who was concerned in the enumerations of both of these periods, considered the population as increasing at the rate of 2,000 annually, and as amounting, in 1833, including Ballymacarrett, to fully 60,000.

Population of the whole town, as constituted, in 1841, 75,308; of Belfast-Shankhill, within the borough, 63,750; of Belfast-Shankhill, without the borough, 4,861; of Belfast-Knockbreda, within the borough, 6,697.—All the statistics which follow include the whole town:

|  |     |     |     |     |     |        |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Inhabited houses   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10,906 |
| Built uninhabited houses                                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,906  |
| Houses in the course of erection                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63     |
| Males  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34,859 |
| Females  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40,450 |
| Families   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15,173 |
| Families residing in first-class houses                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,360  |
| "    "    in second-class houses                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12,716 |
| "    "    in third-class houses                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,077  |
| "    "    in fourth-class houses                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19     |
| Families employed chiefly in agriculture                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,532  |
| "    "    "    in manufactures and trade                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,897  |
| "    "    "    in other pursuits                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,743  |
| Families supported chiefly by vested means or professions      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 643    |
| "    "    "    by the directing of labour                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,765  |
| "    "    "    by their own manual labour                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,202  |
| "    "    "    by means not specified                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 562    |
| Males at and above 15 years of age who minister to food        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,420  |
| "    "    "    "    "    to clothing                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,030  |
| "    "    "    "    "    to lodging, &c.                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,919  |
| "    "    "    "    "    to health                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 112    |
| "    "    "    "    "    to justice                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 292    |
| "    "    "    "    "    to education                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 133    |
| "    "    "    "    "    to religion                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 71     |
| "    "    "    "    "    unclassified                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,905  |
| "    "    "    "    "    without specified occupations         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,614  |
| Females at and above fifteen years of age who minister to food | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 246    |
| "    "    "    "    "    to clothing                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,884  |
| "    "    "    "    "    to lodging, &c.                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 123    |
| "    "    "    "    "    to health                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24     |



|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Females at and above fifteen years of age who minister to charity       | 14     |
| "    "    "    "    "    "    to justice                                | 1      |
| "    "    "    "    "    "    to education                              | 122    |
| "    "    "    "    "    "    to religion                               | 1      |
| "    "    "    "    "    unclassified                                   | 3,435  |
| "    "    "    "    "    without specified occupations                  | 16,417 |
| Males at and above 5 years of age who could read and write              | 17,533 |
| "    "    "    "    "    who could read but not write                   | 7,118  |
| "    "    "    "    "    who could neither read nor write               | 5,441  |
| Females at and above 5 years of age who could read and write            | 13,032 |
| "    "    "    "    "    who could read but not write                   | 14,322 |
| "    "    "    "    "    who could neither read nor write               | 8,492  |
| Males above 4 years of age attending primary schools                    | 2,831  |
| "    "    "    "    "    attending superior schools                     | 1,006  |
| Females above 4 years of age attending primary schools                  | 2,013  |
| "    "    "    "    "    attending superior schools                     | 416    |
| Per centage of the male population of 17 years and upwards, unmarried   | 37     |
| "    "    "    "    "    "    married                                   | 57     |
| "    "    "    "    "    "    widowed                                   | 6      |
| Per centage of the female population of 17 years and upwards, unmarried | 37     |
| "    "    "    "    "    "    married                                   | 48     |
| "    "    "    "    "    "    widowed                                   | 15     |
| School-teachers, males, 85, females, 46                                 | 83     |
| Ushers and tutors, males, 85, females, 49                               | 134    |
| Governesses   | 19     |
| Teachers of music, males, 11, females, 3                                | 14     |
| Teachers of dancing   | 1      |
| Teachers of drawing   | 3      |
| Clergymen of the Established Church                                     | 16     |
| Of the Methodist bodies   | 7      |
| Of the Presbyterian bodies  | 18     |
| Of the Roman Catholic body  | 5      |
| Of denominations not specified  | 11     |
| Scripture-readers   | 5      |
| Missionaries  | 2      |

## THE PARISH.

The parish of Belfast, or Shankhill, is situated partly in the barony of Lower, but chiefly in that of Upper Belfast, in the county of Antrim. The town of Belfast, in the old or strict sense of that name, stands in the Upper Belfast section, but, jointly with the county of Down suburb of Ballymacarrett, is exhibited in the census of 1841 as a separate territory. The parish is nine and a quarter statute miles in length, by five in breadth; the area, exclusive of the town, is 18,263 acres, and the total, including the area of the town, according

to the Ordnance Survey, comprises 19,559 statute acres ; of which 1,148 acres are in the Lower Belfast section. The population of the whole, exclusive of the town, in 1831, was 7,532 ; and, in 1841, 10,152 ; number of houses, 1,158.

The length we have stated includes two narrow strips at the northern and southern extremity of the main body, the deduction of which would leave a length of only about six statute miles. About three thousand acres are mountainous waste or scanty pasture ; and about twelve thousand are arable land, valued at, on the average, forty shillings an acre. But in consequence, partly of enhanced value in the immediate environs of the town, and of great natural diversity in the quality of the soil, the land of the parish varies from five shillings to eight pounds per Irish acre.—Mount Devis, on the western borders has an altitude of 1,567 feet.

Shankhill was the original seat of parochial worship, and name of the parish, but is now an obscure locality, some distance north-west of the town. No church existed at Shankhill for upwards of two centuries until lately, when St. Matthew's Chapel of Ease to the mother church of St. Anne's was erected.

The parish is a vicarage in the diocese of Connor, and province of Armagh, and is in the patronage of the Marquis of Donegall. The vicarial tithe composition amounts to £350 ; the glebe to £114. The gross income is £504 ; nett, £431 8s. 6d. The rectorial tithe is compounded for £600, and are impropriate in the patron. Two curates are employed,—the senior, at a salary of £74, and the surplice fees, amounting to £40,—and the junior, at a salary of £30 from the vicar, and £20 from the senior curate. The parish church, St. Anne's, is situated in the town. The perpetual curacy of Upper Falls is within the parish ; its church, called St. George's, is also in the town, and its incumbent is the parochial senior curate ; this curacy is endowed with the rectorial tithes of Naas, in the county of Kildare, and part of the tithes of the parish of Belfast, jointly amounting to £172 3s. 1d.—The number of houses of public worship will be found under the head of "Ecclesiastical Buildings."

Belfast is the seat of the Roman Catholic see of Down and

Connor, and the residence of the Bishop. St Patrick's chapel, Donegall-street, is regarded as the cathedral of the Roman Catholic diocese, and jointly with the other chapels in the town, and Greencastle chapel, has five officiates; the Han-nastown chapel is united, in the Roman Catholic parochial arrangement, with the chapels of the parish of Derriaghy.

The Belfast Presbytery of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, meets on the first Tuesday in each month, and exercises inspection over thirty-three congregations.

#### NATURAL HISTORY.

The Mineral productions are Coal, Iron, Manganese Marble, Limestone, (which is merely indurated chalk,) Gypsum, Freestone, and Fullers'-earth; of these only the limestone is worked. The coal seams are seen in the Collon and Dunmurry waters, and under the lands of Willmount; the manganese at the foot of the Black mountain; the iron near Willmount and at New Forge; the gypsum in the Collon and Forth waters, and a fine stratum of gray marble near the Black mountain.

"The number of water birds," says Dr. J. D. Marshall, in a series of very able and very interesting papers contributed to the *Dublin Penny Journal*, "the number of water birds which either constantly reside on the shores of our extensive bay, or resort to it at certain seasons of the year, is probably as large as in any other harbour in Great Britain or Ireland. Of one hundred and forty-three species mentioned as having been found at any period, in any part of the British islands, there are eighty-three species which have been found in our harbour. Many of these are residents, but the greater number are met with at the periods of their respective migrations, northward and southward. Our harbour is not only extensive, but well sheltered; and on its shores, and the long ranges of banks which at low water are exposed, the *Grallatores*, or waders, find an ample supply of their respective foods; while in the deep waters the *Natatores*, or swimmers, are never at a loss for small fish of various descriptions, which constitute their principal mode of subsistence.

"In the autumnal months our lough is annually visited by immense flocks of wild geese, Brent geese, widgeon, and others of the *Natatores*, which, having completed the process of incubation in the Arctic regions, seek a milder climate for spending the winter. Directed by their instinctive knowledge, they leave their summer haunts, and in innumerable crowds seek a southern residence. Arriving at the northern coast of our island, they separate into smaller flocks; and some pursue their way into Larne, Belfast, and Strangford loughs, while others go further south, and find in the bays of Killough, Carlingford, Dublin, Cork, &c., situations equally desirable, where they remain till March or April, when they again desert our shores for the wild, uninhabited districts near the pole.

"Among the *Grallatores*, or waders, which are met with in Belfast lough, the Common Heron (*Ardea Cinerea*,) may be mentioned, as one of the most conspicuous. To enter into any description of its plumage would be quite superfluous, as it is a bird almost universally well known. By the lower orders it is frequently denominated *crane*, although the latter is a totally different species, now extinct in Britain.

"There is no bird better entitled 'to claim the protection of the admirers of nature and picturesque scenery, from the striking effects its presence can produce in the solitary haunts which it delights, and where it is most commonly found.' When seen, it is usually standing immovable in the shallows of rivers, on a stone on the edge of a pond, or on the bank recently deserted by the ebbing tide, its neck bent, and drawn in between its shoulders, watching, attentively, the motions of its finny prey, upon which, when once within its reach, it darts with unerring aim, transfixing it by a single stroke of its sharp bill. So motionless does the heron remain when watching for its prey,—its eye intently fixed upon the water below, eagerly seeking for the slightest ripple on the surface, or other indication of the vicinity of its victim,—that it is not unfrequently taken for the stump or root of an old tree. So wary is it when fishing, that it is seldom or never seen with its back towards the sun, by which a shadow would be thrown on the water, and affright the fish,—but on the

contrary always places itself, when possible, in such an attitude that it resembles rather something inanimate.

“About the beginning of March, they congregate in considerable numbers at their breeding stations, or Heronries, where, from year to year, they resort for incubation. These heronries are usually situated in some retired domain, where there are very lofty trees on which they can form their nests. The only two heronries with which I am acquainted, in the vicinity of Belfast, are those at Sir Robert Bateson’s and the Marquis of Downshire’s: the former is situated on some very lofty poplars, at no great distance from the river, which flows through the domain: that at Lord Downshire’s is fixed on some trees in an island in one of the ponds; a very suitable situation, where they may rear their young in safety, and where they are furnished with a supply of necessary food. I visited that at Sir Robert Bateson’s in the middle of March; the birds were collecting in pairs on the trees, repairing old nests, or building new ones when necessary. Some were sitting in dull, listless attitudes, while others were busily engaged examining the future habitation of their young. They were much tamer than they usually are, allowing us to approach very near to them, without exhibiting those symptoms of alarm which at other periods of the year, and in other situations they invariably do. No bird, perhaps, possesses greater wariness than the heron; and it is, consequently, a very difficult matter to approach within gun-shot. In our lough they always keep far beyond range of the gun from the shore, and if approached in a boat, they seem equally well aware of our hostile intention, and direct their motions accordingly. They are, however, occasionally surprised by the gunner; and generally fall an easy victim, from the extent of surface presented to his view, and the slowness of their flight. When thus taken by surprise, they rise in the greatest alarm, uttering their peculiarly harsh cry; a cry, when once heard by the sportsman, can never be forgotten.

“Of the Genus *Totanus*, or Sandpiper, four species have been found in our immediate vicinity, viz.—the red-shank sandpiper, green sandpiper, common sandpiper, and green-shank.—The Red-shank Sandpiper, (*Totanus Calidris*),—is a

constant residenter in this part of the country, and except during one or two of the summer months, is always met with on the shores of our bay.—It is one of our commonest species, and any one accustomed to stroll along the shore can scarcely have failed to notice it. Its shrill, piping cry is uttered immediately on taking flight, and the alarm it sounds is so well known to the other species in its vicinity, that the flight becomes general, and the sportsman, with all his caution, is generally outwitted by this wary bird. They collect on the projecting rocky extremities of the small bays, and these are so situated, that the birds cannot fail to notice any attempt made to obtain a nearer inspection of them. There is no lurking place for the fowler, and after following his game from rock to rock, he may be obliged to return fatigued and disappointed.

“The common Sandpiper (*Totanus Hypoleucos*,) is one of those animated little creatures which enliven the fisherman as he pursues his favourite recreation of angling, diverting him of that feeling of solitude which he would otherwise experience, when wandering along some of our retired mountain streams. I have not unfrequently found it my only companion, for hours, on some of the solitary streams in the county of Antrim; and I have often watched the motions of my fellow-traveller with feelings of unmingled pleasure. It is constantly in motion, running along the bank, or perched upon a stone, its tail moving up and down with great rapidity, and its head nodding, while the clear piping note is uttered with great sweetness. Its flight is very peculiar, though, at the same time, graceful, being performed by a rapid motion of the pinions, succeeded by intervals of rest, the wings considerably bent down, and in this manner it skims rapidly over the surface of the water.”

A new species of rose was discovered in this neighbourhood by John Templeton, Esq., which, by the Royal Dublin Society, was called *Rosa Hibernica*, and afterwards *Rosa Templetonia*, in honour of the discoverer.

The quantity of rain which falls annually in Ireland, as deduced from observations by different authorities, for a stated number of years, is as under, by which it will be seen that

Belfast occupies a medium position, Dublin being the driest and Cork the wettest:—

| Locality.        | Authority.   | Average of years. | Quantity. |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Dublin ...       | Apjohn ...   | ... 6 ...         | ... 30,87 |
| Belfast ...      | Portlock ... | ... 6 ...         | ... 34,96 |
| Castlecumber ... | Aher ...     | ... 18 ...        | ... 37,80 |
| Cork ...         | Smith ...    | ... 6 ...         | ... 40,20 |
| Derry ...        | Sampson ...  | ... 7 ...         | ... 31,12 |

Among the eminent natives of this place may be noticed Dr. Black, the celebrated chemist; Dr. Romney Robinson, author of an able mathematical work, and principal astronomer in the observatory at Armagh; John Templeton, Esq., an eminent naturalist, who left in manuscript the Botany and Natural History of Ireland; Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, author of the "Cottagers of Glenburnie," "Letters of a Hindoo Rhaji," &c.; Thomas O'Hagan, Esq., the learned, eloquent, and indefatigable jurist; Sir James Emerson Tennent, Bart., author of a "History of Modern Greece," "Letters from the Aegean," &c.; Robert Patterson, Esq., author of "Zoology for Schools."

Among the distinguished persons who have resided here may be mentioned Dr. Tennent, the philanthropist; Dr. Abernethy, author of "The Attributes;" Edward Bunting, a celebrated professor of music, and collector of ancient melodies of Ireland; Dr. J. L. Drummond, author of various scientific treatises, and Botanical works; Dr. Bruce, author of a "Life of Homer;" Dr. Drennan, author of various poetical works; Dr. W. H. Drummond, author of various religious, poetical, and political works; Dr. Hincks, compiler of a Greek Lexicon; Dr. W. Nelson, author of a Hebrew and a Greek Grammar; and Drs. Montgomery, Cooke, and Edgar, famous as polemics and divines. Dr. Macdonnell, the eminent physician; Doctor Thomas Thompson, professor of mathematics in the University of Glasgow, James Shiridan Knowles, the dramatist.

The names of David Manson, Dr. Crombie, and the Rev. Doctor Bryce will long enable it to defy rivalry in the fame of a philosophic and masterly acquaintance with the true arts of education.

During the last ten years, Belfast has been progressively advancing in importance, not only as a commercial, but as a literary town. That spirit of liberal inquiry and literary improvement, which characterizes the present age, could not fail to exercise a marked degree of influence on a part of Ireland, the inhabitants of which have ever been distinguished for their intelligence and public spirit. The most opulent cities in this country, notwithstanding their immense population and wealth, have not surpassed Belfast in their efforts to diffuse the benefits of knowledge.

The inhabitants of Belfast have, from the earliest period, been justly applauded for their enterprise, their liberality, and their independence. It is a circumstance highly creditable to their taste and benevolence, that, as their commerce has enlarged its boundaries,—as prosperity and distinction have rewarded their toil and perseverance,—so has there been a corresponding improvement in their intellectual character.

“Belfast,” says an eloquent writer, “exhibits a picture of increasing improvement, which every man of taste and liberal education must contemplate with mingled emotions of pride and exultation;—the man of letters, the merchant, and the artizan, mutually engaged in the grand work of extending and improving the domains of knowledge; zealously co-operating with each other in reclaiming from wildness every sterile spot on the barren waste of ignorance, that promises to repay, by the richness of its produce, the expense and labour of its cultivation. It is a delightful prospect to behold, what may be denominated the leaders of the various classes of which society is composed in this town, scattering over a wide extent of the mental soil, the seed of some favourite plant or flower, in the growth of which they are peculiarly interested; watching its gradual development with incessant anxiety, until it arrives at maturity, unfolds its blossoms, and ‘dedicates its beauties to the sun.’”

It may be observed, in conclusion, that Belfast is to Ireland what Glasgow and Liverpool are to their respective countries, as well in its general appearance, as in the manners, habits, and customs of its inhabitants. The independence which marks their public character, is equalled by their readiness to



meet the calls of humanity, and they need not fear, in any respect, of losing by the comparison. But it would be superfluous to dwell at any length on this subject, as it is hoped the preceding account may convey an adequate idea not only of the past and present state of Belfast, but also of its great and rapidly increasing importance.

Speaking of Belfast, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall, make the following just remarks :—" The pleasant and cheering impression we received, was increased as we trod the streets ; there was so much bustle ; such an ' aspect ' of business ; a total absence of all suspicion of idleness. Such unerring evidence of ample, continual, and general employment, so many proofs of activity, results of past, and anticipations of future success, that the contrast between this town and the towns of the south, startled us, making us for the moment believe we were in a clean Manchester, where hearty breezes swept into the neighbouring sea, all the impurities usually inseparable from a concourse of factories. And this notion was not evanescent ; it remained during our week's stay, and we now revert to it with exceeding satisfaction, for it received confirmation from our subsequent inquiries. It is undoubtedly the healthiest manufacturing town in the kingdom ; although densely populated, there is far less wretchedness in its lanes and alleys, and about its suburbs, than elsewhere in Ireland. The main streets are wide and regularly built ; it contains a large number of public edifices ; the vicinity is remarkably picturesque ; the mountains are sufficiently near to produce pictorial effect ; and the open ocean is within a few miles of its quays. The situation of Belfast is, therefore, most auspicious. It is a new town, and has a new look. It is an improving town, and signs of improvement, recent and progressive, are everywhere apparent. Unhappily, such remarks are applicable to very few other towns of the country. Yet nature has been by no means exclusively lavish to Belfast ; its natural advantages are in no way greater,—nay, they are somewhat less—than those enjoyed by some other towns, where the heart and mind are sickened and depressed by the contemplation of apparently universal poverty ; a people who seem incapable of making an effort for their social or physical advancement ; rich and

poor existing equally in apathy ; great resources never sought to be made available, and wealth actually deposited, as it were, at their very thresholds, useless, because of the lack of active energy to turn it to account. The elements of vast prosperity are at least equally rife throughout the island ; the natural elements for enterprise, activity, and that essential adjunct—capital—have been introduced into Belfast, and have made it what it is, by many degrees, the most flourishing town of Ireland, and second in prosperity to few of the commercial or manufacturing towns of England !”

PAST AND PRESENT CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY IN THE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD OF BELFAST.

The extraordinary change which has been effected in the physical, social, and agricultural state of the country surrounding Belfast, subsequent to the “ Plantation,” from that in which it was previous to that event is of the most interesting and cheering description ; of the Plantation itself Mr. and Mrs. Hall gives the following accurate historical sketch :—

“ The plantation of Ulster was not effected till the reign of James I., who exerted himself vigorously, to establish his English subjects in the secure possession of a considerable portion of the island. His object was not to aggrandize any party, so much as to exhibit an example of peaceful and industrious subjects, governed by English laws. Sir John Davis states that he made greater advances towards the reformation of the kingdom in nine years than had been made in the four hundred and forty that had elapsed since the conquest was first attempted. Various plans were proposed to him for carrying out his views ; but the plan submitted by Sir Arthur Chichester, a soldier of great experience in the Irish wars, was preferred to all the others. According to it, the allotments of land to private individuals were to be of three kinds, in sections of 1000, 1500, and 2000 acres. To make ample allowance for glens, bogs, and other unprofitable spots, then considered irreclaimable, a species of measurement was adopted, known to this day as ‘ Irish Plantation measure.’ The sections of largest extent were generally possessed by persons of considerable substance ; each one was

required to support an adequate number of English, or Scotch tenantry armed, and to build a good substantial house, the materials of which were stated. This class of proprietors was neither expected nor required to reside on their respective allotments, until the expiration of five years. Proprietors of the middle class were obliged to erect a less substantial house, and to support a proportional number of armed cultivators. They were required to fix their residences there within three years; while proprietors of the third class were obliged to reside on their allotments permanently and immediately. Sir Arthur Chichester, the author of the plantation scheme, was a native of Devonshire, 'sonne of SR JOHN CHICHESTER, of Raleiche, Kt.' Accordingly, extensive immigrations from the shires of Monmouth and Devon took place at different times. Those settlers were generally located in the southern districts of Antrim. The Company in London, to which Sir John Davis refers, effected their settlement chiefly in Derry, which was thence called Londonderry. The settlers in the inland counties consisted partly of adventurers, who pushed their way still further into the disturbed districts, and partly of other 'planters,' Scotch and English, allured by the hope of permanent and valuable settlements. It is natural to suppose that the more cautious and prudent were sometimes able to secure good bargains, and to make gradual accessions to their property, from various causes. Some, with the proverbial unsteadiness of soldiers, preferred turning their allotments into cash, and seeking their fortunes elsewhere; others, intimidated no doubt by the enmity which is long hereditary between the victors and vanquished, preferred the security of their native homes. Hence many large and valuable estates in Ulster, at this day, are so scattered and partitioned as to show the very gradual means by which they have been acquired."

Such was the Plantation of Ulster, and we will now proceed to examine the condition of that portion of it, more immediatly in the neighbourhood of Belfast, some years after it had been effected. This we cannot better illustrate than by giving the following extract from the journal of an Englishman, of the family of Egerton, who travelled, as he says him-

self, "from his own house," at Headford, in Cheshire, on the 12th June, 1635, a few years after the Plantation: "From Carrickfergus to Belfast you ride all upon the rock side, itt is a most bare way, and deep in winter and wet weather, though itt is hard and drie. This towne of Carrickfergus is governed by a maior, sheriffe, and aldermen, endowed with great priviledges, and is the shire town.

"Neere hereunto [Belfast] Mr. Arthur Hill, (son and heir of Sir Moyses Hill) hath a brave plantation,\* which he holds by lease, and which has still 40 yeares to come; the land is my lord Chichester's, and the lease was made for 60 yeares to Sir Moyses Hill, by the old lord Chichester. This plantation, it is said, doth yield him £1000 per an. Many Lancashire and Cheshire men here planted; they sit upon a rack rent, and pay five or six shillings an acre for good ploughing land, which now is cloathed with excellent good corne.

"From Belfast to Linsley Garvin, [Lisnegarvey, now Lisburn] is about seven miles, and is a paradise in comparison with every part of Scotland. Linsley Garvin is well seated, but neither the town or country thereabouts well planted, being almost all woods and moorish, until you come to Dromoare; and this town belongs to my lord Conoway, who hath there a good hainsome house, but far short of both my lord Chichester's houses; and this house is situated upon a hill, upon the side whereof is planted a garden and orchard, and at the bottom of the hill runneth a pleasant river, [the Lagan] which abounds with salmon; though the land hereabouts be the poorest and barrenest I have yett<sup>e</sup> seen, yett may itt be made good land with labour and chardge. From Linsley Garvin to Dromoare is about seven miles; here we lodged at Mr. Herren's house, which is directly opposite to the Bishop of Dromoare his house, which is a little timber house of no great state or receipt [reception.] His chaplain's name is Leigh, born in Manchester. This is a very deer house; 8d. ordinary for ourselves, 6d. for our servants, and we were overcharged in beere. This town as itt is the seate of the bishop of this sea, so he is lord of itt, and itt doth wholly belong unto him. In this diocese, as Mr. Leigh re-

\* Plantation means an estate planted with people.

ported, is the worst part of the kingdome, and the poorest land and ground, yet the best church livings bee; there are no impropriations.

"July 7th. Wee left Dromoare and went to the Newrie, which is sixteen miles; this is a most difficult way for a stranger to find out; herein wee wandered, and being lost fell among the Irish townes. The Irish houses are the poorest cabins I have seen; erected in the middle of the fields and grounds, which they farm and rent. This is a wild countrie, nott inhabited, planted, nor inclosed, yett it would bee corne if itt was husbanded. I gave an Irishman to bring us into the way a groate, who led us like a villain directly out of the way, and soe left us; soe as by this deviation it was three houre before we came to the Newrie. Much land is there about this towne, belonging to Mr. Bagnall, nothing well planted. Hee hath a castle in this towne, but is for the most part resident att Green Castle; a great part of this towne is his; and itt is reported he hath £1000, or £1500 in this counterie. This is but a poor towne, and is much Irish; is navigable for boates to come up unto with the tide. Here wee bailed at a good inn, the signe of the princess arms; hence to Dundalke is eight miles, stonye, craggye, hilly, and uneven, but a way itt is not difficult to find."

It would appear from the Down Survey, made in 1657, that some of the best parts of the country, in the twenty-two years subsequent to the writing of the above journal, things had changed rather for the worse, bad as they are represented by the writer of it We make one or two extracts:—

"MAGHERALLY.—There are no observable buildings in this parish, only an old ruind church at Magherally.

"MAGHERALIN.—The quality of the soile thereof is generally arable, meadow, and pasture, intermixt with unprofitable mosses, and boggy grounds, whereon growe many large timber trees, but most of them are decaying with age. There are no buildings thereon only moveable Creaghts.\*

"DROMORE.—There is noe buildings in this parish; only

\* Creaghts were houses framed with strong wattles, which were removed from one place to another, as suited the convenience of the owner. The wattles were set up and covered with turf and straw or rushes.

Dromore, it being a market town, hath some old thatched houses and a ruined church standing in it ; what other buildings there are in this parish are nothing but removeable Creaghts."

As to the present state of those parts we cannot do better than quote from Mr. and Mrs. Hall's valuable work, published in 1843. " There is, probably, no town in Ireland," say they, where the happy effects of English taste and industry are more conspicuous than at Lisburn. From the Drumbridge to the banks of the Lagan on one side, to the shores of Lough Neagh on the other, the people are almost exclusively the descendants of English settlers. Those in the immediate neighbourhood of the town were chiefly Welch, but great numbers arrived from the northern shires, and from the neighbourhood of the Bristol channel. It is interesting to trace their annals from existing facts, which may be easily done, even were they not duly recorded. In the village of Lambeg, situated only a few perches from the Belfast road, the old English games and pastimes were regularly celebrated on Easter Monday, within the last twenty years. The English language is perhaps spoken more purely by the populace in this district, than by the same class in any other part of Ireland. The names of the places are modern, as Soldierstown, Englishtown, the Halftown, Stoneyford, &c. ; and the people of all ranks have, for their stations, high ideas of domestic comfort. The neatness of the cottages, and the good taste displayed in many of the farms, are little, if at all, inferior to aught that we find in England ; and the tourist who visits Lough Neagh, passing through Ballinderry, will consider it to have been justly designated ' the garden of the North.' The original pursuits of the adventurers of the Plantation have been transmitted from father to son, those who settled from the older country having invariably an orchard of some extent attached to their dwellings. The multitudes of pretty little villages, scattered over the landscape, each announcing itself by the tapering spire of a church, would almost beguile the traveller into believing that he is passing through a rural district in one of the mid-land counties of England.

" The ancient name of Lisburn was Linsley Garvin, probably

from the founder, and till 1641, when the town was burned by the Irish, it was called Lisnegarvy. Since that time it has been named Lisburn. From its geographical position, Lisburn was naturally regarded as an important station, by the English of the pale, and by the native Irish. It was on the leading road southwards, and here was the bridge by which the Lagan was passed. Hence, during the '41 wars,' as well as the previous and succeeding 'risings,' Lisburn was the scene of considerable excitement. Its inhabitants are in general social and well-educated, and the class of shopkeepers and other business people, will at least bear comparison, for intelligence, with the same class in any other provincial town of the kingdom. Its chief points of attraction are the *Castle Gardens*, in which are the remains of the Castle, and two gigantic elm trees, called the 'two sisters.' " \*

The Damask manufacture was established at Lisburn, about seventy five years ago, by the late Mr. William Coulson, the father of the present proprietors of the far-famed damask factory, which is situated within the quondam grounds of Lisburn Castle. "Many of the looms of Messrs. Coulson's establishments," says the respectable authority above quoted, "are not inferior in capacity of single work, or in number of designs to those of Germany; in some parts of which country, the manufacture has been in progress for centuries. The damask linen of Germany may have been considered as unrivalled, and certainly it was so under its old draw-loom system. The Jacquard frames are, however, in many cases, more particularly common table-linen becoming prevalent; but they ought not perhaps to supersede the system of cordage, for the most comprehensive designs and heraldic bearings. The jacquard looms are now in course of adoption at the Lisburn manufactory for some of its patterns; and thus either species of machinery can be applied there, according as it may appear best suited to the work in contemplation." The principal manufacturing establishments, in addition to the Messrs. Coulson's, are the Vitriol works, Messrs. Richardson's extensive linen establishments, Mr. Barbour's extensive thread

\* One of the "Sisters" suffered considerable injury in the memorable storm of January, 1889, having been cut off at about twenty feet from the ground.—  
J. A. P.

manufactory, Messrs. Richardson and Co.'s flax spinning mills, those of Messrs. Stewart and Savage, the flour mills of, respectively, Messrs. Richardson, and Mr. Samuel Kennedy, and the brewery of Mr. Graham. The bleach-greens in the vicinity of Lisburn are among the most extensive in Ireland.

The country immediately around Lisburn, is one of the most lovely districts in the North of Ireland,—at once beautiful, ornate, and brilliant,—rich in softly picturesque foregrounds and close scenes, and grandly imposing in the tints and features of hill and mountain perspective. The vicinity in the direction of Hillsborough and Moira, constitute one of the finest sections of fertile, undulating, villa-sprinkled surface of northern and central Downshire; and those toward Belfast combine the foregrounds of the most luscious parts of the valley of the Lagan, with some of the best grouped backgrounds of the Belfast mountains,—and have acquired so just and general a fame for their scenery, as to be the favourite resort of the townspeople of Belfast, both in excursions of private pleasure, and on occasions of showing *the lions* of Ireland to strangers from Great Britain. The country around Lisburn is highly improved; but in the direction of Belfast, it is one continued chain of plantation beauty. “We think it is scarcely possible,” says Mr. Atkinson, “to bring any country to a state of higher perfection than this district of Antrim. A minute description of all the works of art and nature which combine to produce this perfection is incompatible with the limits of a sheet, but when the reader presents to his imagination a magnificent landscape, bounded in front by the Belfast mountains, watered by the river Lagan, besprinkled with beautiful villas, bleach-yards upon the mountain sides, glistening in the dancing ray; cottages white as snow, with cropped hedges enclosing gardens bending under the weight of their productions; valleys teeming with the gifts of Ceres, and all in full view of the traveller, over a charming road, which passes through domains and villas of incomparable beauty; forming one continued chain of rich plantation from Lisburn to Belfast,—he will have formed some idea of the country to whose natural and artificial history we have here introduced him.”



The valley of the Lagan, shared by Antrim with Down, and flanked at a fine distance by the hills of both, is undulating in surface, rich in soil, profuse in artificial ornament, brilliant in the perspective of water and mountain, and whether viewed in its aggregate landscape, or in the multitudinous detail of its scenic groups, will compare with any one of an hundred more boasted valleys, in whatever pleases the taste and delights the fancy. When to the character of hill-screens, soil cultivation, and contour, "are added," says Mr. Dubourdieu, in his statistical survey of the county of Antrim, "when to these are added the number of excellent habitations the valley of the Lagan contains, with the plantations, fences and gardens attached to them, and the bleach-greens lying close to the river, it may with truth be said that few tracts in any country, of the same extent, exceed it in the beauty of its scenery, or in the value of its produce." Let the reader look back upon the description given by the Englishman, Mr. Egerton, in 1635, of the very same tract, and ask:—

"———How can such things be, and  
Overcome us like a summer-cloud  
Without our special wonder!"

But the answer is plain,—those "who run may read" that it is to the energy, industry, and perseverance of the people that this happy state of things is owing in this part of the country; and the same causes would produce the same effects elsewhere, the same independence, the same comfort, and the same content, might be found, by the same means, as well in the "Golden Vale" of unhappy Tipperary as in the peaceful homesteads of the valley of the Lagan.

The village of Lambeg stands at the deflection of the Malone road, from the Belfast and Dublin mail-road, two miles north of Lisburn, and five south of Belfast. Both the village itself and its immediate vicinity have long been favourably known as the seat of a variety of manufactures. The Wolfenden family, who settled in the country in 1606, upwards of two centuries ago, established a woollen manufacture which was long celebrated for the warmth and lightness of its produce. The Hancock family founded in the vicinity a handsome seat and bleach-green. Mr. R. Gemmill, erected a cotton factory for conducting the raw material through all

the processes from the spinning of yarn to the bleaching and finishing of calico and muslin. Other manufactures also have existed at Lambeg. A monastery was founded here, in the fifteenth century, by the Macdonnell family, for Franciscans of the third order, or strict observance; a nunnery is also said to have existed here, and a part of the church-yard still bears the name of the "Nun's Garden." The village occupies an area of nine acres; population in 1831, one hundred and seventy-five; in 1841, two hundred and eighteen, inhabiting thirty-four houses.

The village of Dunmurry stands on the Glenwater, and on the Malone road from Belfast to Lisburn, nearly midway between these towns. Though lying low, it is surrounded by a dry loamy, or sandy soil, and screened by very beautiful and well planted hills; and it, in consequence, possesses a character of charming rural seclusion. There is a meeting-house in connexion with the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster in the village. Here also are very extensive flour-mills and bleach-greens, the property of the Messrs. Hunter. The Ulster railway touches the village, and has here an intermediate station. Area, eighteen acres; population, in 1831, four hundred and seventy-nine; in 1841, two hundred and one, occupying thirty-two houses.—The parish of Drumbeg, in which the village of Dunmurry is seated, occupies a portion of both the counties of Antrim and Down, respectively in the barony of Upper Belfast in the former, and Lower Castlereagh in the latter. The river Lagan bisects the parish, and is rich in those features of landscape which possess beauty without grandeur, picturesqueness without power. Villas are so numerous both within and immediately adjoining the limits, as almost to melt into one another, and form a pervading or general feature of the charming scenery. The industrious prosecution of the linen trade, and the comparatively skilful practice of agriculture, combine with groves, and gardens, and undulated surface, to render large tracts of the parish a fine foreground to the view of the Devis mountain, and to the general range of heights on the southern frontier of the great trappean tableau of the county Antrim. This parish is traversed by the new and the old roads from Belfast to

Lisburn, the Ulster railway, and the Lagan navigation. The parish is a rectory in the diocese of Down. The church was built in 1784, by means of a grant of £461 10s. 9½d. from the Board of First Fruits, and an unknown amount of subscriptions.

About four miles from Belfast, in the parish of Drumbo, stands the Giant's Ring, one of the most stupendous and extraordinary monuments of antiquity in Ireland. It consists of an enormous circle, perfectly level, about five hundred and eighty feet in diameter, or nearly one-third of an Irish mile in circumference, comprising an area of eight plantation or nearly thirteen statute acres. This vast ring is enclosed by an earthen mound or outwork, upwards of eighty feet in breadth at the base ; and though it is probable, in the lapse of nearly two thousand years, the height of this bank must have much decreased, it is still so great as to hide the surrounding country, except the tops of the mountains, entirely from the view ; and in its original state there is scarcely a doubt but they too were invisible, so that a person standing near the centre could only see the enclosure and the sky. Near the centre of the circle stands one of those Cromlechs, or rude stone altars, so common throughout Ireland, and which have been so much the subject of antiquarian disquisition. In reference to this extraordinary relique of antiquity, Mr. Dubourdieu observes :—" The Cromlech in the Giant's Ring, near the church of Drumbo, on the summit of a hill, between Lisburn and Belfast, deserves particular notice, from the circumstance of its being placed in the centre of one of the most stupendous works of antiquity this country can boast of. This altar differs very much from the rest, [in the county of Down] consisting of a rude incumbent stone of seven feet by six feet and a half, and supported by ranges of rude pillars, and close to it some fixed stones still remaining of considerable size ; the supporters are from two to three and a half feet high, the covering stone forming an inclined plane. The inclosure, in the centre of which stands this altar, is circular, one-third of a mile in circumference, the rampart which surrounds it, sloping on each side, instead of ending in a point, is sufficiently wide for two to ride abreast ; the whole is so

proportioned, that a person standing near the altar can only see the enclosure and the sky ; in that situation and alone, he cannot but feel a degree of awe from the idea of total seclusion which strikes upon his mind, and he must be persuaded, that at whatever period, or by whatsoever denomination of men this work was performed, superior judgment has been shown in the planning of an object, which, situated as it is, affects by its simple justness ; and he must feel a high idea of the influence necessary in times so remote, to unite a body of men sufficient to execute it." This Cromlech is either very erroneously described by Harris, in his History of the county of Down, (1744) or its appearance has greatly altered since that time ; speaking of it he says that " two ranges of pillars, *each consisting of seven*, support this monstrous rock ; beside which there are several other stones fixed upright in the ground, at the distance of about four feet." At the time when the compiler of the present work last visited this interesting spot, (the close of 1843,) he found by minute observation, both of himself and a friend who accompanied him, that the " incumbent stone" of the altar rests upon four supporters, and not fourteen, as stated by Harris, the supporter on the south side being an " incumbent stone" resting upon three upright ones, and of itself forming a kind of Cromlech ; there are two large detached stones, one on the west and the other on the south side of the altar. The whole is now enclosed by a wall of stone and lime, erected in 1841, by the present Viscount Dungannon, on whose estate it is situated, solely for the preservation of this curious relique of antiquity. On a tablet inserted in this wall, at the entrance gate, is an inscription as follows :—

" THIS WALL FOR THE PROTECTION OF  
THE GIANT'S RING  
WAS ERECTED A.D. MDCCCXLI,  
BY ARTHUR, THIRD VISCOUNT DUNGANNON."

The inscription goes on recommending the " Ring" to the care of his successors.

Whether the proofs that such monuments were used in the idolatrous adoration of the sun, be or be not satisfactory, it is a circumstance that deserves to be remembered, that the Giant's Ring would exclude from the gaze of a mistaken

multitude, every object but the glorious luminary himself, whose beams they worshipped. It is a place which is calculated to inspire an uninformed Druid with additional superstition, or with the necessity of increased mortification; and they who formed it had a just conception of those human feelings which are extensive in their influence, powerful in their operation, and most deeply to be moved in their external nature.

Much of the surface of the parish of Drumbo possesses the undulating character and the luscious and charming aspect which so generally distinguish the lower part of the valley of the Lagan.—The church is a handsome Grecian edifice, with a lofty tower, surmounted by a copper dome; it was erected in 1789, by subscription, aided by a grant of £461 10s. 9d. from the Board of First Fruits, a donation of one hundred and fifty guineas from Mr. Hall, of Belvidere, and one of one hundred and fifty guineas from the then Marquis of Downshire. In the burial place, close to the site of the ancient church, stood an abbey founded by St. Patrick, of which, according to Archdall, St. Mochumma was abbot in the beginning of the seventh century, and which was plundered, in 1130, by Connor, son of Artgal Maclochlin. “The few remains,” says Archdall, “show it was forty-five feet in length and twenty in breadth; at the distance of twenty-four feet to the north stands an ancient round tower about thirty-five feet in height, forty-seven in circumference, and nine in diameter in the clear; the entrance is on the east side six feet from the ground.” “The stones around the door,” adds Dubourdieu “are parts of a circle, and were taken from a quarry in the neighbourhood, where I saw stones newly raised exactly of the same form. At some former time very strong fires have been burned within this building, and the inside surface, towards the bottom, has the appearance of vitrification. It is supposed there was formerly a small fortified town at Drumbo, and that the foundation of the wall was still to be traced; of late in labouring the fields, in the environs, many hearth-stones and other remains have been dug up.”

The village of Newtownbreda stands on the road from Belfast to Saintfield, three miles south by east from Belfast. It contains a neat parish-church, a building which was ac-

counted by Harris, in his history of the county of Down, the "neatest and most complete in the kingdom," Castell, who designed the Irish House of Parliament, now the Bank of Ireland, was the architect. This church was built by the Dowager Viscountess Middleton, at her sole expense, and is frequently visited on Sundays, by parties from Belfast.—The village consists of small detached white-washed cottages, with gardens in the rear, which give it an extremely interesting appearance. The ancient fortress called *Castle Reagh*, or "the royal castle," which gives name to the barony, was formerly a baronial residence of a branch of the O'Nials. It is said to have been erected in the reign of Edward III., by Aodh Flan, whose descendants possessed the great Ards, Toome, Massereene, Shankhill, or Belfast, and Carrickfergus. By an inquisition, taken in the reign of Elizabeth, it appeared that Con O'Nial, the last of that powerful sept, possessed this castle, together with two hundred and twenty-four townlands, which were all freehold, and also many others held by various tenures. After the decease of O'Nial, the castle fell into decay, and with the adjoining lands was subsequently purchased by the Downshire family.—Previous to 1658 there existed two parishes, called respectively Knock and Breda, both rectories; but the church of the latter being in ruins, they were united into one rectory, at the restoration of Charles II.—The two villages have long disappeared. The church of Ballymacarrett was formerly in this parish, from which that townland was separated by act of parliament in 1825, and formed into a distinct parish. On an eminence, near the south-eastern extremity of the parish, are the picturesque ruins of Knock church, and near them are the remains of a Cromlech, and a rath or forth of conical form. Of the ancient church of Breda there are no remains, except the cemetery enclosed by a high stone wall, in Belvoir park, in which is a small mausoleum, built by Arthur Hill Trevor, first Viscount Dungan-non.

About a mile from the village of Dundonald, a little to the right of the old road leading to Newtownards, there stands in the corner of a field, a remarkable monument called the *Kempe-stones*. Their appearance resembles those Cromlechs

or altars said to have been dedicated to the Pagan rites of the Druids; but from their name, and that of the townland in which they are situated, it is probable they were erected as a memorial of the dead. *Kempe*, in Anglo-saxon, signifies a warrior or soldier, and according to the tradition of the neighbourhood, a giant is interred here, who was slain by a warrior of superior strength. "In our records," says Mr. M'Skimmin, "the district is called *Baille-clough-togal*, that is, the town of the stone of the foreigners or strangers, otherwise Greengraves, by which name it is still known. This monument consists of an enormous rock or stone, reposing in an inclining position on three others, and which, viewed at some distance, has a grand and majestic appearance, especially when we contemplate its antiquity, and the probable state of the arts at that time. The stone is upwards of eight feet and a half in length, and nearly of an equal breadth, varying from four to five feet in thickness, and has been computed to weigh about forty tons. On the east, or front, the two supporters are of a wedge shape, and about five feet high; the third is composed of a massive slab, partly resting on two others, so that it may be said there are five supporters bearing this ponderous load. The surface of the parish of Dundonald is generally hilly, and consists of excellent land; it is traversed by the roads from Comber and Newtownards to Belfast. The village, in 1841, contained a population of one hundred and ninety, inhabiting forty-one houses.

The village of Holywood is delightfully situated on the eastern shore of Belfast lough, and on the road from Belfast to Bangor. Previously to 1800 it contained only about thirty dwelling-houses, chiefly poor cabins; but from its proximity to Belfast, and its fine sandy beach, it has since been greatly extended. It now consists principally of one long, spacious, and very handsome street, extending parallel with the shore but includes a considerable aggregate of other buildings, part of which stand compactly with the chief street, and part are picturesquely and airily sprinkled over the immediate vicinity. The town has a remarkably clean, neat, and cheerful appearance, and contains numerous good houses, which are let during the summer months of the year, to the families of sea-bathers,

and of the merchants of Belfast. The view commands a richly diversified and extensive prospect of Carrickfergus bay, town, and castle ; the Black mountain, Cave Hill, Carnmoney hills, &c., terminating with the basaltic columns of Blackhead.

The parish comprises the two ancient parishes of Ballymechan, or Columbkil, and Craigavad, both rectories, one of which belonged to Holywood priory, and the other to the abbey of Bangor ; they were united, in 1626, under the name of Holywood. A monastery was founded here for Friars of the third order of St. Francis. " We know not," says Archdall, " to whom it owed its origin, although M. Allemande, gives it to one of the Annesleys, which family was not settled in the north of Ireland until long after the final suppression of monasteries." Sir James Ware says it was founded in 1200, by the English family of the Whytes, and that it was well endowed and continued to flourish till the dissolution, when it was granted, in the 3d of James I. to Sir James Hamilton, afterwards Viscount Clancarty. The parish church now occupies the site of the ancient monastery, of which there are no other remains ; and of the churches of Ballymechan and Craigavad not a vestige can be traced ; the cemeteries of both were used as places of interment till 1765, and in the former are said to have been deposited the remains of Con O'Neil, the last of that powerful sept, whose possessions comprised more than one-third of the county of Down, and an extensive district in the county of Antrim, in which was included the now populous town of Belfast. Some carved stones are preserved at Ballymechan, which are supposed to have belonged to his tomb, but the sculpture is of an earlier date ; the site of that church is now a garden, and the churchyard an orchard ; and at Craigavad only one solitary stone remains to mark the site of the churchyard, which is now under cultivation.

The manufacturing locality of Whitehouse is situated three and a-half miles north by east of Belfast, on the north-west side of Belfast lough, on the road to Carrickfergus. The manufacture carried on here is that of the large spinning mill, originally erected in 1784, and then the earliest cotton mill which existed in Ireland ; and it now belongs to the Messrs.



Grimshaw, sons of the gentleman who was one of the first by whom the cotton trade was introduced into this country. Besides which there are now several other Flax-spinning mills in this district, and the extensive and beautifully situated bleach-works of Graymount. The locality consists of a group of three villages, one of which is called White-abbey, though its proper name is Whitehouse-abbey, and it acquired this name from a monastic establishment which was situated here. "Of Whiteabbey," says Mr. Dubourdieu, "there are considerable remains but no records. In Lord Macartney's papers, it is said to have been the daughter of some other religious house not in that part of the country." The other two villages are called, respectively, Lower Whitehouse and Upper Whitehouse. A church and very neat school-house have recently been erected here by the Down and Connor Church Accommodation Society. The picturesque, romantic, and far-seeing mountain of Cave Hill, overlooks the south-west side of the Whitehouses; a series of beautiful villas, beginning with Green-castle, occupies nearly the whole of the intermediate distance to Belfast; and the entire vicinity is replete with the combinations of picturesque, natural features, and rich artificial decorations.



# ANNALS

OF

## THE COUNTY ANTRIM.

---

495. Aodh or Hugh, a disciple of St. Patrick, founded a monastery at Antrim, which was destroyed during the Danish invasions.

550. A monastery founded at Muckamore by St. Columb. This establishment acquired great celebrity, and continued to flourish until the 32d Henry VIII., when it was delivered up to the King's Commissioners by Doyomahallon its last abbot. Soon after the invasion of Ulster by Sir John de Courcy, Muckamore was visited by that adventurer, who confirmed to the monks their former possessions, and extended their ancient privileges, to which Henry VI. in 1430, added a grant of free warren, with an annual fair and monthly market. In the 18th of James I., the site and its possessions were granted by letters patent, to Sir Roger Longford, from whom they descended to the Earls of Massereene. There is only a small portion of this once splendid pile now remaining; but the extensive cemetery is still the burying place for the surrounding district. The site of this monastery was one of the finest that could have been selected, comprising all the advantages of wood and water, and all the variety of hill and dale, with a pleasingly undulating surface and a soil of exuberant fertility. Among the ruins have been found silver candlesticks and other valuable relics. The fair granted by Henry VI. is now held at Oldstone, on the 12th of June, and is considered the largest horse fair in Ulster.

590. A religious establishment founded on the Island of Rathlin, or Raghery, by St. Columb, who placed it under the superintendence of St. Colman.

795. A body of Danish pirates, in their first descent upon the coast, laid waste the entire of the island of Rathlin, and destroyed the monastery, which was soon after restored.

924. Dunseverick castle, (*Dun Sobhairce*) was plundered by the Danes of Loch Cuan (Strangford lough, in the county of Down,) and they slew many persons on this occasion. The ruins of this castle are situated on an insulated rock, near the centre of a small bay, three miles east of the Giant's Causeway, and occupy the site of one of the most ancient fortresses erected in Ireland by the Milesians. In the Annals of the Four Masters, under the year A. M. 3501, we find this fact recorded in these words, "A. M. 3501. This was the year in which Heremon and Heber assumed the joint government of Ireland, and divided Ireland equally between them. In it also the following fortresses were erected," (here a number of fortresses in various parts of the island are enumerated) and amongst them "Dun Sobhairce, in Murbholg of Dalriada." In the Book of Ballymote and the Book of Lecan, we are told that this Sobhairce and his brother, Cearmna, assumed the joint government of Ireland; the former residing at Dun Sobhairce, in the north, and the latter at Dun Cearmna, in the south. Sobhairce was afterwards slain in this fortress, by Eochaidh Echcherm, King of the Fomorians, or sea pirates. Again we quote from the annals of the Four Masters,—A. M. 4176.—"Rotheacht having been seven years King of Ireland, was burned by lightning in Dunsobhairce. It was by this Rotheacht that chariots of four horses were first established in Ireland." In the Book of Armagh, published by Sir William Betham, Ulster King at Arms, in his "Antiquarian Researches," we are informed that St. Patrick "at Dun Sebuirgi (pronounced *Doon Severgi*) sat upon a rock, which is called St. Patrick's rock to this day, &c.," and M'Geoghegan, in his History of Ireland, thus makes mention of the subject of this note,—"He (St. Patrick) afterwards proceeded through the territory of Dalriada, at present called Route, in the county of Antrim, as far as the castle of Dunsobhairce, in the northern extremity of this territory," which is the precise situation of Dunseverick castle. From the foregoing, the great antiquity and importance of this stronghold will easily be seen. In later times it was in the possession of the M'Quillans, and afterwards in that of a branch of the O'Cahans (O'Kanes), who settled in the county of Antrim

in the 13th century, but Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sorley Boy M'Donnell, in the possession of whose descendant, the Earl of Antrim, it still continues. Of the original fortress, it is almost needless to say there are no remains. It was in all likelihood an earthen Dun or Fort, similar to other strongholds of the ancient Irish; the re-edification is attributed to the M'Quillans, but history is silent on this subject.

973. The monastery on the island of Rathlin again destroyed by the Danes, when the abbot, St. Feradachnes, was slain.

1045. The Danes of Dublin, under the command of Imar, the son of Harold, slaughtered the Ultonians, in the Island of Rathlin, off the north coast of Antrim. Three hundred of the Ultonians were killed, together with Randal O'Heoch-adha.—(*An. 4 Mag.*)

1124. Malachy O'Morgair consecrated bishop of Connor.

1178. About this time a fort, (the site of which is now occupied by St. George's church) at Belfast, was taken and destroyed by Sir John de Courcey, who soon after erected a strong castle in a different situation. It does not appear that there was any town here at this time, nor is there any mention of one prior to 1316.

1210. King John marched his army to Belfast, at least to the place where the present town is now situated, then called *Belu-fear-sad*.

1232. A Monastery for Franciscan friars erected at Carrickfergus, and was in great repute.

1234. Carrickfergus was at this time one of the Haven towns of Ulster.

1274. A number of Scots landed in the neighbourhood of Carrickfergus, to assist the O'Nials against the English.

1274. It would appear that Carrickfergus enjoyed the privilege of a corporation at this time, as there is notice of such in the record of a Commission dated this year; it was probably a borough by prescription.

1282. A General chapter of the order of Franciscans was held at Carrickfergus.

1306-7. Robert Bruce, when driven from Scotland by the success of Baliol, took refuge in an ancient fortress on the island

of Rathlin. The ruins of this castle are situated on a precipitous cliff near the northern angle of the island, and still known by the name of "Bruce's Castle." According to tradition it was erected by the Danes, who exercised extreme tyranny over the unfortunate inhabitants of this island.

1315. Edward Bruce landed with 6,000 men at Wolderfirth, now Olderfleet, near Larne, accompanied by the De Lacys and several of the Scottish nobility, and being joined by some of the Irish chieftains, he advanced to lay siege to Carrickfergus, the garrison of which was then commanded by Thomas Lord Mandeville, who made a sally on, and repulsed the assailants in the first onset, but being recognised by the richness of his armour, he was felled to the ground from the blow of a battle-axe, and instantly killed. Upon this event the garrison agreed to surrender within a given time, and upon the appointed day thirty of the Scottish forces advanced to take possession, when they were seized as prisoners, the garrison declaring that they would defend the place to the last, but their provisions failing them, they were ultimately obliged to surrender.

1315. Edward Bruce defeated the English under Richard de Burgh, at Connor, and took possession of the town, then a walled city, though now little better than a rural hamlet.

1316. Belfast, with its castle, destroyed by Edward Bruce, and thereby fell into the hands of the Irish chieftains, who rebuilt the castle and retained possession of it for near two hundred years.

1326. Carrickfergus had a shrievalty distinct from that of Antrim.

1333. William de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, is killed by his own men, between the castle of the Ardes\* and Carrickfergus, in the twenty-sixth year of his age,† in June. He had put to death Richard‡ de Burgh, his uncle, both for having in-

\* *Castrum de Sincles*.—This place is called Nova Villa by Pembridge. It was probably the castle of Newtownards.

† *Anno etatis*.—*Anno etatis sue* xx., vi. *die mensis Junii*. Pembridge. "This Erle of Ulster might dispense a yere in that land above 30,000 marks, and had five shires, besides lordships and manors. These be the five shires, the counties of Tyrone, Antrim, Carrickfergus, Newtown, and Lekahill" (Lecale).—*Finglas' Breviate in Harris's Hibernica*, p. 103.

‡ These particulars are not in Pembridge, who says, that the person who gave him the first blow was Robert Fitz Maimiton Mandeville.

sulted his wife, and for other causes. The sister\* of this Richard had married Sir John Mandeville, of Donnahir, and she ceased not to incite him to the revenge of her brother; therefore, on the Lord's day, when he was riding to a meeting from the castle of the Ardes towards Carrickfergus to church, perceiving that more servants of the Logans were with him than were with the Earl, when he was saying the morning prayers with him, he cleft his head from behind with a sword, upon hearing which the earl's wife, with his daughter,† fled from Ulster into England. John Darcey, Justiciary, going there, and defeating the murderers in battle, takes some of them, and slew others.

1386. Carrickfergus was burned by the Scots. (*M. S.*)

1390. In an order to the Justiciary, John de Stanley, the castle of Carrickfergus is described as in a miserable condition from the incursions of the Irish.

1400. Carrickfergus was again destroyed by the combined forces of the Scots and Irish.—(*M Skimmin.*)

1402. On the petition of the mayor and burgesses of Carrickfergus, Henry IV. released the corporation for one year, from the payment of the annual rent of 100 shillings for the customs, to assist them in rebuilding the town, which had been burned by his enemies.

1408. Hugh Mac Adam Mac Gilmore, fled to the monastery of Carrickfergus for safety, the windows of which he had previously destroyed, and was soon after assassinated within it by the savages.

1426. A priory for Franciscan Friars, founded at Masse-reene by one of the sept of the O'Nials, which was granted in 1621, by James I., to Sir Arthur Chichester, Baron of Belfast.

1442. A Cell existed in the parish of Kells, in the 9th century, on the site of which a priory was erected, some time previous to the arrival of the English, by O'Brian Carrog,

\* *Ric Seror*.—Archdall (Peerage Clancikard,) does not mention this Richard. He says that the Earl was murdered by Robert Fitz Richard Mandeville, near to the Fords, in going to Carrickfergus, at the instigation (as was said) of Gyle de Burgo, wife of Sir Richard Mandeville, in revenge for his having imprisoned her brother Walter, and others.

† *Uxor*.—Maude, third daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, Leicester, and Derby, second son of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, second son of King Henry III.

who dedicated it to the blessed virgin, and which was in existence in this year.

The sees of Down and Connor united.

1465. A Franciscan monastery, founded at or near Glenarm, by Sir Robert Bisset, the site and revenues of which, after the dissolution, were granted to Alexander M'Donnell, ancestor of the Earls of Antrim; the ruins are situated in the cemetery attached to Glenarm church.

1503 The Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy, took and destroyed the castle of Belfast, which was soon after taken possession of and repaired by the Irish chieftains.

1504 It was enacted that none but an Englishman should be entrusted with the custody of Carrickfergus castle.

1509. The abbey of Bonamargy, founded by Sorley Boy M'Donnell, for Franciscans of the third order, or strict observance. The late Mr. M'Skimmin of Carrickfergus, a very accurate topographer, and antiquary, observes, with reference to the date assigned for the foundation of this establishment, that "there must be some error in those particulars, as Sorley Boy could hardly have been born in 1509; and if he were the founder it must have been at a much later time; we incline, however, to believe it a work of an earlier period, and to attribute its erection to the ancient family of the Mac Quillans, of Dunluce castle, in whose territory it lay.—The situation of Bonamargy is strikingly romantic. Though the adjacent country is now destitute of the luxuriant woods by which the monastery is said to have been surrounded, the site was admirably chosen for religious meditation, and shows that a taste for the magnificence of nature was not unfelt in the barbarous and turbulent period of its foundation."

1512. Gerald, Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy, again drove the native chieftains from the castle of Belfast.

1551. The Lord Chief Justice marched at the head of an army into Ulster, and dispatched the crews of four ships to the island of Rathlin to plunder it: James and Colla, the two sons of M'Donnell, of Scotland, were on the island to defend it. A battle ensued, which ended in the total defeat of the English, not one of whom survived the battle, excepting the lieutenant who commanded them on this excursion, whom the

Albanians (Scots) kept as a prisoner until they got in his stead their own brother, Sorley Boy M'Donnell, who had been imprisoned in Dublin a year before that time, besides other ransoms.

1552. The Lord Chief Justice, Sir James Crofts, again marched into Ulster, at the head of an army, against O'Neil of Clannaboy and the Scotch. The son of Savadge of the Ardes, and a party of the English, went first before them to plunder the country. But they were met by the son of O'Neil at Belfast, who made a vigorous attack upon them, put them to flight, and killed the son of Savadge, together with forty, or according to others sixty of them. Howbeit the Lord Chief Justice advanced, and commenced to erect a castle at Belfast, but gained no victory, took no spoil or hostages on this occasion, and thus ended the adventure.

Sir James Crofts, Lord Deputy, repaired and garrisoned the castle of Belfast. During the same year the northern Irish, under the command of Hugh O'Nial Oge, appeared in arms, but terms of accommodation having been offered to and accepted by that chieftain, and, on his swearing allegiance to Henry VIII., he obtained a grant of the town and castle of Belfast, with other extensive possessions.

1555. The castle of Carrickfergus was besieged by the Scots, and the following year it was relieved by Sir Henry Sidney, father of the celebrated Sir Philip Sidney.

Hugh O'Nial Oge was killed by a party of Scots, when all his possessions, with the exception of the castle of Belfast, passed into the hands of other branches of his family.

This year the castle of Belfast was placed in the custody of Randolph Lane, an English governor.

1558. The Earl of Sussex, Lord Deputy, attacked the Scots who had taken possession of the island of Rathlin, and expelled them with great slaughter.

1568. The sept of the M'Allisters entered into a conspiracy against the English, quartered in the vicinity of Kenbaan castle, and in an encounter which took place between them, two English horsemen were slain; soon after, Ranuel Oge Mac Alister Carraghe, chief of the Mac Allisters, was killed in revenge, by some English soldiers. On this commotion,



Captain William Piers, governor of Carrickfergus and seneschal of the county of Antrim, proceeded with some troops to the Glynns; where he made three of the Mac Allisters prisoners, one of whom he hung in chains; and Alexander, chief of that sept, making his submission about this time, the Mac Allisters sunk beneath the English power.

1569. Upon the representation of the inhabitants of Carrickfergus, that they had lost their "letters patent," in the disturbances and persecutions of "rebels and enemies," by which loss they were deprived of their franchises, &c., Queen Elizabeth, in the 11th of her reign, granted a charter of incorporation, conferring on them, besides several special immunities, all such other privileges and jurisdictions as the corporation of Drogheda possessed.

In the parliament of this year Shane O'Neil was attainted for various treasons, conspiracies, and rebellions, and a great part of his territories in the counties of Antrim and Down, were forfeited to the crown. From the Glynns of Antrim to the Ards of Down was granted to Sir Thomas Smythe, secretary to Queen Elizabeth.

The castle of Olderfleet, (Larne) was at this time considered so important a defence against the Scots, that its governorship was entrusted to Sir Moyses Hill. It was dismantled in 1598.

A battle, commonly called the Battle of Aura, fought on the plains of Bonamargy between the forces of the Mac Quillans and M'Donnells. This battle, by the issue of which the M'Donnells became possessed of the castles and estates of the M'Quillans, is described as having been fought through the whole vale of Glenshiesk, every yard of which was contested, and the entire surface nearly covered with the slain. The victory was determined in favour of the M'Donnells.—Shane Dennis O'Neil fell in this battle, and his cairn is still shewn near Cushendun.

1571.—The castle of Toome, (which had been previously held by Randolph Lane) with his other castles and lands granted to Sir Thomas Smythe, on condition of his securing and planting them with true and faithful subjects to her majesty, before the 28th of March, 1579, or else his patent

to be void and of no effect. To promote this colonization, Smythe proposed to grant lands at trifling rents, to such persons as would assist him with men or money, and in the following year his son, Captain Thomas Smythe, arrived with a few English adventurers. Their numbers proved too few, however, to drive out the Irish; and Smythe being soon after killed in south Clannaboy, by Neal Neal Bryan Fertagh O'Neil, this intended plantation fell to the ground.

1573. The corporation of Carrickfergus addressed a remonstrance to the Lord Deputy Fitzwilliam, representing that one-third of the town was then in ruins; in the same year it was further desolated by fire, in which state it continued for several years.—(*M. Skimmin.*) The various circumstances by which it was reduced to this state are given in a manuscript preserved in the British Museum, entitled, "A Discourse of Knockfergus," in which its calamities are ascribed to an ancient feud with Bryan Ballough, chieftain of Claneboy, and also from the persecutions of his son and successor, who continued to harrass the inhabitants, whom he obliged to pay an annual tribute. The frequent incursions of the Scots, the predatory invasions of the O'Nials and M'Donnells, and various other causes, contributed to keep the place in a state of ruin.

The Earl of Essex visited the castle of Belfast.

1574. The corporation of Carrickfergus enacted a by-law against "all manner of Skolds."

1575. General Morris, at the head of a body of men, from Carrickfergus, landed on the island of Rathlin, and slew 240 of its inhabitants.

The Lord Deputy Sydney encountered the Irish forces at Belfast. It is said that at this period Belfast had a forest and woods.

1576. Building of the walls of Carrickfergus commenced by Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy, part of which are still traceable.

1579. Castlerobin, parish of Derriagh, rebuilt by Sir Robert Norton.

1580. So much did the island of Rathlin suffer, from time to time, by the repeated ravages of the English and Scots,

that it is stated to have been in this year totally uninhabited.

1581. Leonard, Lord Grey, Lord Deputy, issued an edict prohibiting the inhabitants of Carrickfergus, from paying to the Irish lord of the country, the tribute hitherto paid to the successors of Bryan Ballough, and called in that document "Breyne Balaf's Erie."

1582. Belfast recommended by Sir John Perrot as the fittest place in Ulster for the establishment of ship-building.

1584. On the division of the county into baronies, which took place about this time, their names, with one exception, (Kilconway) appear to have been taken from those military posts held at that time by the English. It appears that the baronial arrangement of Sir John Perrot was not strictly observed until a considerable time afterwards.

Dunluce castle was besieged by Sir John Perrot, the garrison of which made a brave and obstinate resistance, not surrendering till the artillery had battered down a portion of its walls.

1585. A general summons to meet in parliament, was issued this year to the people of Ireland, enjoining their chiefs and nobles to assemble without fail in Dublin, in the following May; for at that time most of the principal men of Ireland were obedient to the government, wherefore they generally came to Dublin as ordered. Amongst the chiefs and nobles who attended this great parliament, were O'Neil, Turlogh, Luineach, who at this time got the title of Earl (Tyrone); O'Donell, Aodh Roe; Maguire, Cuconacht; O'Dogherty, Shane Oge; O'Boyle, Turlogh; O'Gallagher, Owen; Mac Mahon, Ross; O'Cahane, Rooy; and Conn, son of Niall Oge, son of Niall, son of Conn, son of Aodh Buoy of the O'Neills, (*i. e.* the O'Neills of Clannaboy, from whom the present Earl O'Neill is descended) also Mac Aongusa, or Magennis, Aodh. These were the principal northern nobility who assembled in parliament at Dublin, this year.

Sir John Perrot made an assault on Dunluce castle, which Sorley Boy M'Donnell had wrested from the powerful chieftain Mac Quillan, and after a vigorous resistance, drove M'Donnell from the castle, in which he placed one Sir Peter

Carey, whom he thought to be a man within the pale. Sir Peter, who was in reality one of the Carews of the north, brought around him some of his friends and retainers, and, unknown to the Deputy, discharged the English soldiers; two of his garrison, however, confederated with M'Donnell's party, drew up fifty of them by night into the castle, and these having taken possession of the fortress by surprise, attacked, and slew the governor and some of his companions. On this event being made known to the Lord Deputy, he dispatched to the assault of the castle an officer named Meriman, who slew the two sons of James M'Donnell, and Alexander, the son of Sorley Boy; and so harrassed the latter by driving away his cattle, which constituted his principal wealth, that he surrendered Dunluce, and repaired to Dublin to make his submission, which was accepted; he then received a re-grant of all his possessions, together with the government of Dunluce, on condition of fidelity to the English crown, and by the payment of an annual tribute of cattle and hawks.

1596. Antrim church originally erected.

1597. Sorley M'Donnell assaulted the garrison of Carrickfergus, and having taken the governor, Sir John Chichester, prisoner, brought him to Glynn, where he beheaded him on a stone that had formed the plynth of an ancient cross.

1598. Olderfleet (Larne) castle was dismantled.

Shane's Castle, known in early times by the name of Edenduffgarrick, was wardable at this period.

1601-2. The castle of Toome was held by a part of the army commanded by Sir Arthur Chichester.

About this time Hugh, Earl of Tyrone, being closely pressed by the Lord Deputy Mountjoy, many of his followers made their way over the Bann into the fastnesses of the county Antrim, much to the alarm of the English quartered in that neighbourhood.

Ballynure church erected.

1602. The Lord Deputy Mountjoy being at "the Newry" on the 10th of August, received intelligence that the Earl of Tyrone had dispatched Brian Mac Art into Killultagh, to disturb those parts, upon which his lordship directed Sir Arthur Chichester, and Sir Henry Davers, (the former from

Massereene, and the latter from "the Newry") to draw part of their forces into that country, and invest the fort of Innislochlin, which commanded the oft disputed pass of Kilwarlin, being the only strength the Irish then had in those parts; and upon the 19th of the same month his lordship, writing to "Master Secretary Cecil," says, "we have taken *Enishlaghlin*, a place of great importance, and the strongest I have heard of, to be held by any Rebel in Ireland." Fynes Moryson, in his famous, or infamous History of Ireland! thus comments on this adventure—"The fort of Enishlaghlin above mentioned, (the investing whereof made the Lord Deputy defer the taking of the field,) was seated in the midst of a great bog, and no way accessable, but through thick woods, very hardly passable. It had about it two deep ditches, both encompassed with strong pallisadoes, a very high and thick rampart of earth and timber, and well flanked with Bull-works. For defence of the place forty-two Musqueteers, and some twenty swordsmen were lodged in it. But after that our forces, with very good industry, had made their approaches to the first ditch, the besieged did yield the place to the Queen, and themselves absolutely to her mercy. So a ward of English was left in the castle, after the spoil thereof was taken, wherein were great store of plate, and the chief goods of the best men in the country, being all fled to Tyrone, and the men there taken were brought bound to the Newry, and presented on the 19th of August to the Lord Deputy."

APRIL. The forces in garrison at Carrickfergus, out of which Sir Arthur Chichester was to draw a competent strength to come by water, and meet the Lord Deputy in Tyrone, were, foot—under Sir Arthur Chichester, Governor, 200; Sir Foulke Conway, 150; Capt. Sackfield, 100; Capt. Norton, 100; Capt. Billings, 150; Capt. Philips, 150; total foot, 850.—Horse—Sir Arthur Chichester, 25; Capt. John Jephson, 100; total horse, 125.

A second charter of incorporation granted to Carrickfergus, (44th Elizabeth).

1602-3. In the beginning of March, Brian Mac Art made another incursion into Killultagh, with five hundred men under his command; whereupon the Lord Deputy Mountjoy

despatched Sir Richard Moryson from Dublin to Lecale, (county Down) where his garrison lay, and gave him a guard, together with three companies of foot, in order to assist Sir Arthur Chichester in the prosecution of Mac Art, who was again driven out of Killultagh by these forces.—(*Moryson, vol. 2, p. 282.*) The lamentable condition to which the miserable inhabitants residing in this part of the country were at this time reduced was shocking in the extreme, at the relation of which humanity shudders; and although not immediately connected with the circumstances of the above note, yet, as the facts are stated in conjunction with it by the English historian, Moryson, and as an exemplification of the sufferings of the unfortunate poor, and innocent, (for in what way could women and children thwart the policy of a government?) under Elizabeth's Vicegerent, we subjoin the following extract from Fynes Moryson's history, (*vol. 2, p. 283*) —“Now, because I have often made mention formerly of our destroying the Rebels' Corn, and using all means to famish them, let me, by two or three examples, shew the miserable estate to which the Rebels were thereby brought. Sir Arthur Chichester, Sir Richard Moryson, and the other commanders of the forces sent against Brian Mac Art aforesaid, in their return homeward, saw a most horrible spectacle of three children (whereof the eldest was not above ten years old), all eating and gnawing with their teeth the entrails of their dead mother, upon whose flesh they had fed 20 days' past, and having eaten all from the feet upward, to the bare bones, roasting it continually by a slow fire, were now come to the eating of her said entrails, in like sort roasted, yet not divided from the body, being as yet raw. Former mention hath been made in the Lord Deputie's letters, of carcasses scattered in many places, all dead of famine. \* \* \* And no spectacle was more frequent in the ditches of towns, then to see multitudes of these poor people dead, with their mouths all coloured green by eating nettles, docks, and all things they could rend up above ground.” One syllable of comment upon the above would be preposterous. It is, in itself, a sufficiently horrifying picture.

1603—28th MAY. The forces at Carrickfergus were, Sir

Arthur Chichester, Governor, 200; Sir Francis Conway, 150; Captain Roger Langford, 100; Captain Thomas Philips, 100; Captain Henry Sackford, 100;—in all, 650 foot-Horse, Sir Arthur Chichester, Governor, 25.

Con O'Neill, chief of Claneboy, was confined in the castle of Carrickfergus.

The castle of Toome was held by Sir Thomas Philips, as its constable, who had under him twelve warders.

1604. Sir Arthur Chichester received from James I., a grant of the fisheries, and the office of Admiral of Lough Neagh, which have been held by his successors, and are now vested in the Marquis of Donegall.

1605. A patent for holding a market at Antrim granted to Sir James Hamilton.

1609. Ballycastle castle erected by Randolph, Earl of Antrim, who was directed by James I. to raise "faire castels" on his estate, that the country might be the more easily reduced to obedience.

1610. The Cathedral establishment of Connor refounded by patent of 7th James I.

A noble house erected by Sir Arthur Chichester, at Carrickfergus, on the site of a Franciscan monastery.

A charter of incorporation granted by James I. to Carrickfergus; this charter contained a reservation of the castle and its precincts, together with the ancient liberties and royalties appertaining to it, and sites for a sessions-house, and prison for the county of Antrim.

1611. Presbyterianism established in the counties of Down and Antrim.

The parish of Broad Island or Templecorran, was the first Presbyterian parish of the plantation in the reign of James I., which had a Presbyterian minister. For upwards of two centuries this parish had only four pastors; the first was the Rev. Edward Bryce, appointed in this year (1611,) and died in 1636, the second, Mr. Cunningham, appointed in 1645, died 1697, the third Mr. Cobham, appointed in 1700, died 1759, the fourth, Mr. Bankhead, appointed in 1763, died a few years ago. In 1833 there was but one inhabitant of this parish who was not a Presbyterian.

1612. The castle of Belfast and its possessions, having escheated to the crown, were granted to Sir Arthur Chichester in this year.

1613. Royal charter of incorporation granted by James I. to Belfast under the title of the "Sovereign, Free Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough of Belfast."

King James I. in the 10th of his reign, granted a charter of incorporation to the inhabitants of Carrickfergus, and another in the 20th of his reign (1623,) but the charter acted upon, out of the many granted to the people of Carrickfergus, was that of 1613; in it the corporation was styled the "Mayor, Sheriffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the town of Carrickfergus." The corporation consisted of a Mayor, sixteen other Aldermen, two Sheriffs, twenty-two Burgesses, and an indefinite number of Freemen, with two Coroners, three Town Sergeants, a Water Bailiff, Sword Bearer, &c.

1614. A Presbyterian meeting-house erected at Antrim.

Sir Faithful Fortescue was constable of Toome castle with twenty warders; and in 1618, Sir Claude Hamilton was appointed constable with six warders.

The Lord Chichester, Baron of Belfast, was governor of Carrickfergus, who had under him Captain Fortescue, with twenty warders.

Sir Foulke Conway was governor of the fort of Innislochlin (Enishlaughlin), having under him fourteen warders.

1621. A grant of a market, to be held on Friday, at Belfast, made by James I. to Arthur, Lord Chichester; and fairs annually on the 1st and 2nd of August, and 28th and 29th of October. Grants were previously made to Arthur, Lord Chichester, by James I. in 1605, 1608, and 1611, all of which were included in the grant of this year, and which were confirmed in 1668, to Arthur Earl of Donegall.—The fairs are now held on the 12th of August, and 8th November.

The "Grand Inquisition of the County of Down" taken this year. In it the castle of Belfast is included, with several others. The Inquisition recites that, in the earldom of Ulster there were various parcels of land, some waste, and some inhabited by a "wicked, barbarous, and uncivil people, some Scottish, and some wild Irish;" and that the Smythes;



with a power of Englishmen, agreed to subdue all, and "then plant with faithful subjects." The Inquisition then goes on to recite the various covenants by which the Smythes were to retain possession of these "divers parcels of land;" that Thomas Smythe, the son, did enter the earldom in 1572, but did not subdue it. It then proceeds to state the violation of the various covenants and non-payment of crown-rent, and that, therefore, the whole grant reverted to the king.

1625. A castle erected by the family of Shaw, near Cairncastle, between Glenarm and Larne.

1627. The castle of Lisburn erected by Edward, Viscount Conway, who received a grant of the manor of Killultagh from Charles I., a portion of which had been granted to one of his ancestors by James I. Soon after the erection of this castle, a number of English and Welsh families were induced by the proprietor to settle here, who established the woollen and other manufactures, and in a short time a town consisting of fifty houses was built.

1628. A patent of the manor of Killultagh granted in favour of Viscount Conway.

1637. The corporation of Carrickfergus, previous to this time, enjoyed the receipt of one third of the customs of the port, but which privilege was, in this year, surrendered to the crown, in consideration of the sum of £3,000, to be conveyed to trustees and invested in lands, but from its non-investment, the town was deprived of all benefit arising from this grant.

The manufacture of linen particularly encouraged by Lord Strafford.

Lord Strafford purchased for the crown, from the corporation of Carrickfergus, their privilege of importing foreign goods at one third of the amount of duties payable in other places. The custom-house was then removed to Belfast.

1639 A plan was formed to betray the castle of Carrickfergus to the Scottish insurgents, but it was defeated by the vigilance of Lord Strafford.

1640. A large army assembled at Carrickfergus to oppose the Scotch.

1641. On the breaking out of the rebellion, the garrison at Antrim was considerably increased, and the fortifications

of the castle and town were greatly strengthened by Sir John Clotworthy, who became one of the most distinguished leaders of the parliamentary forces in the unhappy conflict which followed; having the command of certain "boats and barks" on lough Neagh, in consequence of which, that "magnificent little inland sea," became the scene of many a conflict between the contending parties.

Sir Henry Mac Neil was defeated from surprising Carrickfergus by the vigilance of Colonel Arthur Chichester, the governor, when it became one of the principal places of refuge for the Protestants of the surrounding counties.

During the war of this period, the parish of Magheragall was the rendezvous of the insurgent forces, consisting of 8000 men, under Sir Phelim O'Neil, and Sir Con Magennis, previous to their attack on Lisburn; after their defeat they returned to Brook-hill, then the seat of Sir George Rawdon, which, together with the church, they burned to the ground, and killed many of the inhabitants of Ballyclough and its neighbourhood.

The insurgent army commanded by Sir Phelim O'Neil, Sir Conn Magennis, and General Plunket, on their march to Carrickfergus, advanced to attack the town of Lisburn. The garrison at that time consisting of only five newly raised companies, and Lord Conway's troop; but Sir Arthur Tyringham arriving with a small force, aided by Sir George Rawdon, repulsed the columns of the insurgents, who kept up a continuous fire from the streets. Full reinforcements having arrived from Belfast and Carrickfergus, the insurgents despairing of success, set fire to the town, which, in a short time, was reduced to ashes, a bloody fight being maintained till midnight, when the insurgents were entirely put to flight, leaving behind a number of slain, amounting to three times that of the garrison, of whom about twenty or thirty were killed.

The fort of Innislochlin, parish of Magheramesk, which commanded the pass of Kilwarlin, was garrisoned by a part of the royal army.

The hamlet of Soldierstown, parish of Magheramesk, had a barrack for two companies of foot soldiers and a troop of

horse. The oral history of the country states, that these troops having brought some field pieces to an eminence in the vicinity of the church and round tower of Trammery, beat down the church and made a considerable breach in the tower. The ruins of this ancient church and round tower are well worthy the attention of the antiquary. The tower, when standing, was about sixty feet high, surmounted by a conical covering, raised on a kind of net work, the breach above mentioned having been covered by a thick mantle of luxuriant ivy. About thirty years since, some thoughtless "destructionist" cut the roots, and the ivy decayed; thus deprived of the beautiful covering with which nature had, as it were, in pity, cicatrized the wound inflicted by the ruthless hands of a lawless soldiery, many of the stones became loosened, and in process of time the breach almost met round, yet a few stones remained with adhesive tenacity, supporting the venerable fabric, until its fate was decided in October, 1828, when a wanton boy deprived it of the last support, and soon after, this ancient monument of Ireland's departed greatness, which, for ages, arrested and pleased the eye of the traveller, became what it now is—a mass of shapeless ruins.

At this period the town of Belfast had obtained a considerable degree of importance, and was the residence of many merchants and men of note, but the inhabitants, being for the most part Presbyterians, suffered a good deal from not conforming to the established church; many of them left the country, and those who remained joined the interest of the parliamentarians. The immediate effect of this upon the town was the suspension of all improvements. The defeat of the insurgents at Lisburn saved the town from assault in that quarter. Whilst the rebels were laying waste the whole of the surrounding country, Belfast was kept in safety by the arrangements made by Sir Arthur Tyringham, who cleansed the water-courses, opened the sluices, erected a draw-bridge, and mustered the inhabitants in military array.

1642. General Munroe, commander of the Scottish forces in Ulster, paid a friendly visit to the Earl of Antrim at Dunluce castle, by whom he was hospitably received; but at the

conclusion of the entertainment, Munroe gave the signal to his armed followers, who instantly made the Earl prisoner and seized the castle;—this act was soon after followed by the seizure of all the Earl's possessions.

All the Roman Catholic inhabitants of Islandmagee were slaughtered by some Scottish soldiers under Munroe, when on their march to Carrickfergus.

The castle of Toome was garrisoned by part of the regiment of Antrim, under the command of Sir John Clotworthy, who, the same year, erected some additional works and put the place into an excellent state of defence.

The town and castle of Carrickfergus were delivered up to General Robert Munroe, who, having landed with 2,500 Scots, (part of an army of 10,000, engaged by the government for the reduction of Ireland,) made this place his head quarters till 1648, when he was seized by General Monk and sent prisoner to England.

1643. A naval engagement took place on Lough Neagh, when Colonel Connolly and Captain Langford gave battle to a party of Irish marauders, who had possession of the fort of Charlemont, on the shores of Clanbrassil, on which occasion the Irish were defeated, and their fleet brought in triumph by the victors up to the town of Antrim.

Colonel Chichester was appointed governor of the castle of Belfast by Charles I., who granted £1000 for the better fortification of the town.

1644. General Munroe made an attempt to get possession of the town of Lisburn, but was frustrated by the vigilance of the garrison.

1645. The first Presbyterian congregation established in Belfast.

SEPTEMBER. Sir Phelim O'Neil captured a boat on Lough Neagh belonging to the "governor of Massereene," in which were two brass cannons, ten muskets, twelve barrels of salted fish, some sailors, and a company of soldiers.

1646. MAY. Sir Phelim O'Neil captured seven boats on Lough Neagh, taking fourteen men prisoners, and killing about twenty more.

1648. A severe battle fought near the church of Derrinagh,

between the English forces under Colonel Venables and Sir Charles Coote, and the Scots under Munroe, when the latter were defeated.

A battle was fought between the English and Scottish forces at Dunadry, about a mile from Templepatrick, in which the celebrated Owen O'Connolly, who commanded the former, was mortally wounded.

General Monk seized General Munroe, the commander of the garrison at Belfast, whom he sent prisoner to England, and having assaulted the town, reduced it under the controul of the parliament, who appointed Colonel Maxwell governor.

General Monk appointed governor of Carrickfergus by the parliament, and rewarded with a gratuity of £500.

1649. The Presbyterians of Belfast, on the decapitation of Charles I., put forth a "representation" of their views, condemnatory of the proceedings of the sectarian party in England. They raised their "testimony," and expressed their "indignation" against the conduct of those with whom they had formerly co-operated in their inimical proceedings against the church of Ireland. This excited against them the vengeance of the poet Milton, who replied to their "representation," designating them the "blockish Presbyters of Clandeboy"—these "unhallowed priestlings" of the "unchristian synagogue at Belfast," &c.

The castle of Carrickfergus surrendered to Lord Inchiquin, but was afterwards reduced by Sir Charles Coote for Cromwell.

The town and church of Antrim burned by General Monk.

Belfast was taken by Lord Montgomery, but Cromwell, on his arrival, sent Colonel Venables, after the massacre of Drogheda, to reduce it, in which he succeeded.

Colonel Robert Stewart was governor of Toome. About the month of December he was obliged to surrender the place to the parliamentary troops, under the command of Colonel Robert Venables.

1650. The garrison of Toome castle surprised by the Roman Catholic army, under the command of Emar Mac Mahon, titular bishop of Clogher, but it was retaken soon after by the parliamentary forces.

1659. Donegore church erected.

1660. The sovereign of Belfast was prohibited from selling, by retail, any ale, wine, or aquavitæ.

A plan of Belfast, executed this year, from which it appears that the town contained only six streets, and four rows of houses.

1662. The church of Lisburn constituted a cathedral for the diocese of Down and Connor.

Antrim castle, the residence of the Earl of Massereene, erected by Sir John Clotworthy, Lord Massereene, who died in 1665, and whose only daughter and heiress, by her marriage with Sir John Skeffington, carried the Massereene title and estate into the latter family. Antrim castle is a splendid mansion, and well deserving of notice, not only from its grandeur of size, and beauty of situation, but still more as presenting an almost unique example of the style of domestic architecture introduced into the British Islands from France, immediately after the Restoration. Massereene castle is beautifully situated, at the extremity of the principal street of the town of Antrim, on the banks of the six-mile-water river, and immediately contiguous to Lough Neagh. The entrance from the town is through a fine gate-house, in the Tudor style of architecture, built of cut lime-stone, and closed by two folding-doors of cast iron, which are opened from a room overhead by means of machinery. The principal front of the castle faces the gate-house, and is in the centre of a curtain wall, connecting two large square towers, placed at the angles of the building, and which again have smaller circular towers at three of their angles. This front is approached by a magnificent double stone staircase, and presents a great variety of enrichments in the French style of the seventeenth century; and is also decorated with shields, having the armorial bearings of the founder's family, and with medallions containing the portraits of Charles I. and II. The greatest length of the castle, however, runs parallel with the river, from which it is separated only by a low parapet wall, while the terraces of the gardens are situated on the other side. These gardens are no less attractive than the castle itself, with which they appear to be of equal age; they are laid

out in the French style, the flower-beds being formed into a variety of patterns, among which that of the *fleur-de-lis* is the most conspicuous. The borders are often of triple and sometimes quadruple rows of box, between which is laid fine gravel of various colours. It is said that a fine kind of this gravel was imported from Holland, and cost upwards of 1s. 2d. per quart. This garden is traversed from east to west by a succession of fish-ponds; miniature cascades conduct the water from the most elevated of these ponds to the lowest. The timber in this garden is of great age and beauty, particularly the lime and oak, and it contains two or three specimens of the rhododendron, which are famous for their magnificence, being fully fifteen feet in height, and of corresponding circumference. The house contains some fine pictures, and curious articles of antique furniture.

A celebrated and judicious antiquary, and architect, George Petrie, Esq., observes with reference to the date assigned for the building of this castle, that "though there can be no doubt, from the architectural style of the building, that Antrim castle was re-edified at this period, (1662) there is every reason to believe that it was founded long before, and that it still preserves, to a great extent, the form and walls of the original structure. The castle of Antrim, or Massereene, as it is now generally called, appears to have been originally erected early in the reign of James I., by Sir Hugh Clotworthy, who, by the establishment of King James I., had the charge of certain boats at Massereene and Lough Sidney, or Lough Neagh, with an entertainment of five shillings Irish by the day, and eighteen men to serve in and about the said boats, at ten pence Irish by the day each. This grant was made to him by patent, for life, in 1609; and on a surrender of it to the King in 1618, it was re-granted to him, and his son and heir, John Clotworthy, with a pension of six shillings and eight pence per day, and to the longer line of them for life, payable out of the revenue. For this payment, Sir Hugh Clotworthy and his son were to build and keep in repair, such and so many barks and boats as were then kept upon the lough, and under his command, without any charge to the crown, to be at all times in readiness for his Majesty's use, as the neces-

sity of his service should require. John Clotworthy succeeded his father as captain of the barks and boats, by commission dated the 28th January, 1641, at "fifteen shillings a-day for himself; his lieutenant, four shillings; the master, four shillings; master's mate, two shillings; a master gunner, one shilling and sixpence; two gunners, twelvepence; and forty men, at eight pence each."

Belfast contained only 150 dwelling-houses, arranged into five streets, and a like number of lanes or rows.

1664. An extensive castle erected by Lord Conway at Portmore, parish of Ballinderry, on the site of a more ancient fortress. It contained accommodation for two troops of horse, with a range of stabling, 140 feet in length, 35 feet in breadth, and 40 feet in height. The remains consist of only the ancient garden-wall, part of the stables, and the ruins of one of the bastions.

1665. The inhabitants of Malone, Falls, Dunmurry, and part of the parish of Coole, were exempted from the tolls and customs payable at the "gates of Belfast," in consideration of their contributing to the erection of a market-house. This market-house was situated at the corner of High-street, next Corn-market, where Mr. M'Comb's shop now is; in later times it was occupied as a kind of guard-room or barrack, and was taken down about thirty-five years ago, being then in a very dilapidated state. A second market-house was erected at the other extremity of Corn-market.

1666. Charles II., in the 17th year of his reign, granted letters patent to the inhabitants of the town of Antrim, empowering them to send two members to the Irish parliament, which they continued to do till deprived of the privilege by the act of Union.

The garrison of Carrickfergus mutinied, seized both town and castle, and acted in so determinate a manner, that the government was obliged to send the Earl of Arran by sea to reduce them; the Duke of Ormond marching also against them with a small force, the mutineers, after some resistance, surrendered, when 110 of them were taken prisoners and tried by a court-martial. Nine of them were executed, and the companies to which they belonged disbanded.



1667. Dr. Jeremy Taylor died at Lisburn, and was interred in the Cathedral of Dromore.

By an act of Corporation Assembly, the free butchers of Belfast were commanded to deliver to the sovereign, "on account of ancient custome," the tongues of all cattle killed within the borough, and those who were not members of the corporation, to pay four pence in lieu of each tongue.

1674. A charter granted to the inhabitants of Lisburn, empowering them to send two members to the Irish parliament, which they continued to do till 1802, when the representation was limited by the act of Union to one member.

1676. It was decreed by the corporation of Belfast, that no stranger or alien should "put to sale," either in public or private, any bread, except on the market-day, and then only from nine o'clock, morning, till three o'clock, afternoon.

1677. That part of Carrickfergus called the "Irish quarter," received that cognomen upon the proclamation of the Duke of Ormond, ordering all Roman Catholics resident in cites, corporate towns, forts, &c., to remove beyond the walls.

1678. An act of Parliament, prohibiting the importation of linen from France, passed this year, but was afterwards repealed by James II., who gave every encouragement to the French Manufacture.

The first regular supply of water was brought to the town of Belfast, by George Macartney, Esq., conveyed by means of wooden pipes, from the Tuck-mill dam.

1682. APRIL. The foundation laid of the Long Bridge, between the counties of Down and Antrim; but its completion was delayed for some years, in consequence of the unsettled state of the country. This bridge consisted of twenty-one arches, and was 2,562 feet in length; of this the twenty-one arches, of which it was composed, took up 840 feet; it was built at the joint expense of the counties of Antrim and Down, and cost £8,000, some say £12,000; the breadth of the arched part was only twenty-two feet, and that of the dead work was originally only nineteen feet, but was subsequently widened. In 1840 it was taken down, as unsafe, and replaced by the present elegant new structure, "Queen's Bridge."

1683. Charles II. granted the manor of Edenduffcarrick to Rose, Marchioness of Antrim, in consideration of a fine of £200; and "further appointed, ordained, and declared the town of Ironworks *alias* Mainwater, with its rights, members, and appurtenances, within the said manor, should be called for ever by the name of the borough of *Randalstown*," and by that name he constituted it a free borough, and granted that the said borough, and the majority of the inhabitants of the said town, and their successors for ever, should have authority to return two members to the Parliament of Ireland.

1685. After the repeal of the edict of Nantz, a number of immigrants from France settled at Lisburn, who gave considerable impulse to the linen trade previously established in that locality.

1686. Long Bridge, Belfast, finished.

The number of vessels belonging to the port of Belfast was but 47, the aggregate tonnage of which amounted to 3,307 tons.

1688. "At the time of the Revolution," says Wakefield, "Belfast contained a very few streets, and the houses, a small number excepted, were thatched with straw."

On the abdication of James II., the inhabitants of Belfast fitted out a vessel, which they dispatched with a congratulatory address to William, Prince of Orange, whom they subsequently proclaimed King; but soon after, James's forces got possession of the place, when many of the inhabitants fled to Scotland and other places, and any of the wealthier classes that remained suffered attainder.

A party of Lord Blayney's troops being separated from the main body of the army, crossed the river Bann at Toome, and were made prisoners in a skirmish near Antrim.

A new charter of incorporation granted by James II. to Belfast, by which the number of Burgesses was increased to thirty-five, and the privileges of the corporation much abridged.

The castle of Toome held by a detachment of Roman Catholic dragoons, of the regiment of Cormac O'Neil, who, on the 11th of February, were attacked, and routed by the "Antrim Association" (a number of Protestants in the county of Antrim, who had determined to oppose the arbitrary mea-

asures of James II.) The dragoons effected their escape over the Bann into the county of Londonderry, in such confusion that their retreat was called the "Break of Toome."

During the revolution, the parish of Drumaul was generally the head-quarters of the Earl of Antrim's regiment, which marched thence to the siege of Londonderry.

Lord Iveagh held Carrickfergus for James II.

The customs' revenue of Belfast amounted to £20,000.

1689. In the spring of this year, Toome was held by the regiment of Sir John Skeffington, under the orders of Lieut. Col. Huxton. In the month of April, a division of the Irish army having passed the Bann at Portglenone, the garrison of Toome was obliged to evacuate that post and retreat to Derry. At this time the lands now called the Creagh meadows, near Toome, were covered with wood.

On the landing of Duke Schomberg, at Groomsport, near Bangor, with an army of 10,000 men, the Irish forces, who had possession of Belfast, evacuated the town, of which Col. Wharton took possession, in the name of King William. A reinforcement of 7,000 troops from Denmark, soon after arrived, who joined the forces of Schomberg, encamped under the walls of the castle, at Belfast.

Crumlin church destroyed by the army of James II., which had its depot here. In the north and south walls of this church are a series of sepulchral arches, continued nearly the entire length of the building.

During the war of this period, the ford of the river Bann, at Portglenone, was regarded as a very important pass between the counties of Antrim and Derry, and Sir J. Magill and Captain Edmonston were sent to defend it against the Irish army, in their march towards the Bann, in order to enter Derry.

An attempt was made by the Protestants, in the neighbourhood of Carrickfergus, to take that fortress, which was then held by the troops of James II., but without success. In the course of the year, however, Schomberg invested it with a large force, and the garrison, after having exhausted all their ammunition, surrendered.

1690. King William landed at Carrickfergus, and arrived

at Belfast, in the month of June. He immediately issued a proclamation, prohibiting the army from laying waste the country. The King remained here for five days, and lodged in the house of Sir William Franklin, the site of which is now occupied by the Donegall Arms' hotel, and marched hence, by way of Hillsborough, to the Boyne. On his march the King issued an order to the Collector of Customs at Belfast, to pay to the Presbyterian ministers the sum of £1,200 per annum, which was the origin of the *Regium Donum*, or royal bounty, at present paid to that body.

Near the shore of Belfast lough is an encampment, 70 feet square, surrounded by a deep fosse, and defended by a bastion at each angle; it is said to have been thrown up by the English army in this year, and is still called "Fort William."

William III. marched through Lisburn, on his way to the Boyne.

A considerable body of forces, in the interest of James II., assembled at Lisburn, on the arrival of King William's army, but they abandoned the place without making any attempt at its defence.

1692. In the spring of this year, seven arches of the Long Bridge, Belfast, fell in. It was much shaken in 1689, by the Duke of Schomberg's heavy cannon, drawn over it by a part of the army of William III., as well as by a ship being driven against it in a storm.

1696. The first printing press established in Belfast, by James Blow and Patrick Neil.

1699. The second and last execution in Ireland, for the crime of witchcraft, took place at Antrim, in this year. The particulars of this melancholy instance of folly and wickedness were printed in a pamphlet, entitled "The Bewitching of a Child in Ireland."

Mr. Lewis Crommelin obtained a patent for establishing the Linen manufacture at Lisburn; also a grant of £60 per annum for the support of a French minister, to contribute to the spiritual wants of a number of French refugees, who, after the repeal of the edict of Nantz, settled at Lisburn, and contributed not a little to the rise and prosperity of the place. A few of their descendants yet remain in the locality, and

Nicholas Delacherois Crommelin, Esq., of Carrowdore castle, Donaghadee, is lineally descended from Mr. L. Crommelin, mentioned above.

1704. The first Bible ever printed in Ireland, was published this year by Messrs Blow and Neil at Belfast.

At the Ballymena quarter sessions it was decreed, that all mutton exposed for sale in Belfast be taken up, if the skin be not attached, with the proper marks for inspection.

1707. The town and castle of Lisburn burned to the ground; the latter never was rebuilt, but the present town speedily arose from the ashes of the former.

1708. The second Presbyterian congregation established at Belfast.

The castle of Belfast destroyed by an accidental fire, and was never afterwards rebuilt. Three daughters of Arthur, third Earl of Donegall, perished in the flames.

1711. A number (eight) unfortunate females were tried at Carrickfergus, before Judges Upton and Macartney, for witchcraft; they were found guilty, and sentenced to be imprisoned twelve months, and four times pilloried.

A Board of Trustees of the linen and hempen manufacture established by act of parliament. At this period the value of linen exported, did not exceed £6,000.

1712. The church of the Union of Ballyclug erected, and enlarged in 1822.

1715. The inhabitants of Belfast and its vicinity, formed themselves into corps of volunteers, to resist the threatened invasion of the Pretender.

1720. Antrim church rebuilt.

All the houses in Bridge-street, Belfast, were thatched with straw.

The notorious outlaw, "a proclaimed tory and rapparee," Eneas O'Haghin, whose fame as a knight of the *pad*, tradition and history have not lost sight of, was executed at Carrickfergus. It would appear, from the records of the county, that Eneas was apprehended in the county Louth, as we find it chronicled:—"1720—£15 to Daniel Phillips, *Ballymascanlon*, and £5 to John Hawkins, for bringing to justice Eneas O'Haghin, a proclaimed tory and rapparee." The account,

therefore, of his arrest, as given, with a few remarkable incidents in O'Haghin's eventful life, in the *Dublin Penny Journal*, vol. 4, p. 359, is not correct.

Bishop Hutchinson, appointed to the united diocese of Down and Connor this year; had the Church of England catechism translated into Irish, and printed in English and Irish, for the use of the inhabitants of the Island of Rathlin, hence it was called the "Rathlin catechism."

1721. The first application to parliament, for aid in working the Ballycastle collieries, was made by the Hon. R. Stewart, Thomas Burgh, Esq., and others.

1722. The third Presbyterian congregation, Belfast, established in consequence of the secession of the Presbytery of Antrim, on points of doctrine.

1725. Machinery first invented for, and applied to the operation of washing, beetling, and rubbing linen, at Ballydrain, in the parish of Belfast.

1726. The Presbyterian Meeting-house at Antrim, in connexion with the Presbytery of Antrim, erected.

1729. An extensive brewery established at Ballymena, which continued in operation for upwards of a century, and, in 1831, was converted into a Distillery.

1730. The value of linen exported, amounted to £400,000.

At this time great exertions were made by the Irish Parliament, to constitute Ballycastle a place of import and export, but were successfully opposed by the Irish Society, and the corporation of Derry. At this time it had a spacious harbour, in which a seventy-four-gun ship might ride with the most perfect security in any weather, and upon the improvement of which, £130,000 had been expended; a pier and harbour was also constructed, at an expense of £30,000. But the degree of prosperity to which the town had attained, under the auspices of Hugh Boyd, Esq., began to decline soon after the decease of that gentleman, and all that now remains of its former prosperity and trade, is an insignificant fishery carried on by a few boats in the bay. The harbour is now completely choked up, the pier and quay lie a heap of ruins, the custom-house has been converted into a whiskey shop, breweries are untenanted, glasshouses are converted into

workshops for mechanics, and the mansion-house has become a parish school. The collieries, which extended nearly a mile in length, and from which, from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of coals were annually exported, have altogether declined, and the works, which had been conducted with success, have been discontinued. These collieries were locally situated in the adjoining parish of Culfeightrin, but were always called the "Ballycastle collieries," and occupied the face of a hill called Cross-hill, an eminence 500 feet in height, of which nearly 150 feet are formed by a cap of columnar basalt, resting on alternating strata of sandstone and clay-slate, extending 150 feet in depth, immediately under which is the bed of coal, at an elevation of 200 feet above the level of the beach.

1732. The linen trade introduced into Ballymena.

1733. Loughguile church erected, chiefly at the expense of Lord Macartney, of Lissanoure castle.

1737. A Barrack erected in Barrack-street, Belfast.

The "*Belfast Newsletter*," the earliest newspaper in Ulster, and third in Ireland, commenced on the 1st of September. The price originally was four shillings and four pence per annum in town, and six shillings and six pence, if delivered in the country,

1738. Dunaghy church erected.

1739. Lough Neagh completely frozen over.

Portglenone church erected, it was built as a chapel of ease to the mother church at Ahoghill, by Bishop Hutchinson, who was interred in the chancel.

1740. The trade between Belfast and the West Indies commenced.

The inhabitants of Carrickfergus gave a splendid entertainment to the Duke of Ormond.

The first application of lime, as a manure, is said to have taken place at Brookhill, parish of Magheragall, in this year.

1743. Belfast was enclosed, on the land side, by a wall and wet ditch, and entered by gates.

1746. An establishment of Moravians, or United Brethren, was founded at Ballykennedy, or Gracehill, in the parish of Ahoghill, and barony of Lower Toome. The Moravians hold under the Right Honourable Earl O'Neill, on a lease of lives

renewable for ever, about two hundred acres of land, plantation measure, which is subdivided into small portions among the brethren. The village consists of a number of family residences, of which the greater portion are small cottages, exclusive of the chapel, and the two principal houses, for unmarried brethren and sisters, respectively, which occupy three sides of a quadrangle, the area being ornamented with shrubs. The sisters support themselves by various kinds of needlework, particularly tambour and embroidery, which is much admired; and also superintend a boarding-school for young ladies. The inhabitants of the brethren's house having greatly diminished in number, a considerable portion of the building has been appropriated as a boarding school for young gentlemen, conducted by the minister of the establishment, and several assistants, and a daily school for boys and girls of the surrounding country. A small manufacture of linen, and various trades, are carried on. Each family has land sufficient for the keep of a cow, and the raising of potatoes. The chapel is a neat and commodious building; the burial place is on the summit of a rising ground, at a short distance from the village. The founder of this establishment was the Rev. John Carnick.

1747. There were but three vessels employed at Belfast in the cross-channel trade, which were, collectively, 198 tons burthen.

1749. There was a parliamentary grant to Francis Joy, of £200, as a reward for his improvements in the manufacture of paper in the north of Ireland. He introduced the first paper engine into Ulster.

1750. The ancient coronation chair of the O'Neils, of Castlereagh, which originally stood on the hill of Castlereagh, in the county of Down, within two miles of Belfast, after the downfall of that family, in the reign of James I., was thrown down and neglected till this year, when Stewart Banks, Esq., sovereign of Belfast, caused it to be removed thither, and built into the wall of the butter market, where it was used as a seat until the taking down of the market place. It was then taken possession of by a person named Thomas Fitzmaurice, who removed it to a garden in front of his



house in Lancaster street, where it remained till 1832, when it was purchased for R. C. Walker, Esq., who had it removed to his seat at Rathcarrick, in the county of Sligo, where it is preserved with all the care due to so interesting a relic. This chair is very rudely constructed, and is composed of common whinstone; the seat is lower than that of an ordinary chair, and the back higher and narrower.

1752. Methodism introduced into Carrickfergus, by some soldiers of the 42nd regiment of Royal Highlanders.

The first Bank established at Belfast, under the firm of Mussenden, Adair, and Bateson.

1753. The first private lottery in Belfast for building a poor-house and infirmary.

1754. Linen Hall, Belfast, established and held in the square now occupied by St. Ann's Church,—removed nearer the Exchange in 1773.

Building of Donegall-street, Belfast, commenced.

1755. The market-house of Carrickfergus erected by subscription; in it the corporation meetings were wont to be held.

1756. Ballycastle church erected, at the sole expense of Hugh Boyd, Esq. It is a handsome edifice, in the Grecian style of architecture, with a lofty octagonal spire.

Wood coal was discovered in a hill, in the immediate vicinity of the village of Ballintoy, and worked to such an extent as supplied the salt-works of Portrush and Coleraine. It resembles charred wood, and although much used for burning lime, and sometimes for household purposes, it is greatly deprecated on account of its disagreeable odour.

1757. Belfast contained 1,779 houses and 8,549 inhabitants, 7,993 of whom were Protestants, and 556 Roman Catholics.

1758. Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, authoress of the "Cottagers of Glenburnie," "Letters of a Hindoo Rajah," &c., born in Belfast this year.

The manufacture of canvas and ropes introduced into Belfast.

1760. The French commodore, Thurot, with three ships, landed at Kilroot point, and proceeded to attack Carrickfergus. The gates were quickly closed, and, though the

French general (Flobert), who led the attack, was wounded, the garrison, consisting of only 100 men, was obliged to capitulate, for want of ammunition. The French kept possession for some time, and threatened to lay siege to Belfast; but on the approach of the forces sent against them, they re-embarked, and set sail for France. Two days after, however, they were attacked by an English squadron, off the Isle of Man, when commodore Thurot was killed, and the French ships captured.

1761. Henry Gill, Esq., bequeathed £10 per annum, each, to fourteen decayed inhabitants of Carrickfergus, and also houses and gardens to such of them as might not have residences.

The only acid used in the process of bleaching linen at this time was *buttermilk*.

1762. Twenty alms-houses erected at Ballycastle, which were endowed with the rentals of the townlands of Carnside and Ballylenny, (reserving £40 per annum, for the incumbency of Ballycastle.) These alms-houses were for the reception of poor men, or the widows of poor men, who had worked eight years in the collieries, or other works on the estate of H. Boyd, Esq.

The gross customs of Belfast, including excise, amounted to £32,900,—in 1784, they amounted, exclusive of excise, to £101,376,—in 1810, they amounted, exclusive of excise, to £425,174, 18s. 2½d,—in 1838, they averaged about £400,000, and in 1840, they amounted to £361,502.

The Lagan canal, between Belfast and Lisburn, opened. Its cost was estimated at £70,000;—receives a local duty of 4d. per gallon on spirits, and 1d. per gallon on malt liquors.

1764. Doctor James Ferguson, of Belfast, received from the linen board a premium of £300, for the successful application of lime in bleaching linen,—in 1770 he introduced sulphuric acid; ten years afterwards potash was first used, and in 1795 chloride of lime was introduced.

1765. A large school-house, on the demesne of Willmount, in the townland of Malone, near Belfast, built by the then Marquis of Donegall, who endowed it with the rent of an

adjoining farm, now let for £40 per annum; it is accessible to children of all persuasions in the neighbourhood.

Broughshane church, parish of Skerry, erected by Charles, ancestor of the present Earl O'Neil, on condition of the parishioners keeping it in repair. The ruins of the ancient church, in which were interred the remains of many of the ancestors of Earl O'Neil, are situated on the summit of a conical hill, and form a conspicuous object in the vicinity for miles around.

The extensive flour mills at Crumlin, which were the first erected in the north of Ireland, originally built by Rowland Heyland, Esq. These mills were considered of so much importance, that government erected extensive warehouses for storing wheat and other grain, and encouraged the growth of wheat, by every means, in the surrounding country; these mills annually consume 3,000 tons of wheat, and 3,000 tons of oats; they are now the property of Messrs. Robert Macaulay and son.

1766. Mr. William Coulson established the damask manufacture at Lisburn, which has since become so famous under the management of his sons and successors, Messrs. John and William Coulson, who, by their skill and attention, have brought it to vie with anything of the kind in Europe.

1767. The county of Antrim Infirmary established at Lisburn. There is accommodation for fifty patients, with baths, dissecting room, &c.

1768. Tickmacreevan church erected, near the town of Glenarm, at the expense of the M'Donnell family.

1769. Foundation laid of the old exchange (now occupied by the Belfast Banking Company), erected by the then Marquis of Donegall, at an expense of £4,000.

Foundation of Chichester quay, Belfast, laid by T. Gregg, Esq.

1770. Presbyterian congregation, Berry-street, Belfast, established.

The customs and excise duties of Belfast amounted to £63,600.

In working an unexplored part of the cliff near Ballycastle, an old excavation was discovered, and found to be of consi-

derable extent, and to have been wrought upon a regular system, by persons evidently well acquainted with the scientific principles of mining. History and tradition are alike silent as to whom, or to what time, these mining operations are to be referred.

1771. Foundation laid of the Incorporated Poor-house, top of Donegall-street, Belfast. This institution was established for the reception of aged and infirm poor, and the support and education of poor children during infancy; it was built by subscription, and a lottery, and cost £7,000.

About this time an organised system of outrage prevailed in several parts of the county. The persons who combined called themselves, "Hearts of Steel."

1773. The present Brown Linen Hall, Donegall-street, Belfast, established.

1774. The ancient church, south side of High-street, Belfast, near the quay, taken down as unsafe.

Sir George Macartney appointed governor and constable of Toome castle, with a salary of £1,300 per annum.

Poor House, Belfast, opened. The founders of this institution were incorporated by act of parliament, under the title of the President and Assistants of the Belfast Charitable Society.

1776. Mills for the manufacture of paper first erected at Antrim.

The manufacture of flint glass commenced at Belfast.

1777. The cotton manufacture originally introduced into Belfast, by Messrs. Joy and M'Cabe.

1778. St. Anne's church, Belfast, erected by the then Marquis of Donegall; it has a handsome Doric portico, and Ionic tower, surmounted by a Corinthian cupola.

An octagonal spire was erected upon the tower of Carrickfergus church, at an expense of £500, defrayed by subscription.

The notorious pirate, Paul Jones, appeared off Carrickfergus, but did not land, contenting himself with the capture of an armed vessel, the Drake, that had been sent to attack him.

1779. The county of Antrim court-house and gaol erected at Carrickfergus, at a cost of £21,785.

Messrs. Joy, M'Cabe, and M'Cracken, of Belfast, commenced the manufacture of calico, dimities, and Marseilles quilting; they also introduced the use of the fly-shuttle.

1780—JULY 11. Grand review of the Ulster Volunteers by Lord Charlemont, at Belfast. On this occasion his lordship was attended by Sir Annesley Stewart, and the Right Hon. Henry Grattan, as his Aides-du-camp, and accompanied by the Marquis of Camden. He was met at Hillsborough by Mr. Dobbs, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Stewart, afterwards the Marquis of Londonderry. His arrival at Belfast, on the 11th, was announced by a salute of seven-guns from the artillery, which was answered by the ships in the harbour; and the three companies, then formed in, and belonging to Belfast, were drawn up to receive him. On the 12th, the several companies paraded at nine o'clock in the morning, and marched to the field selected for the review, about a mile and a-half from the town. This field extended nearly half a statute mile in length, intersected by a rivulet, on the west side of which the line was formed. The line consisted of 1,400 men, divided into four batallions. The remaining body, consisting of nearly the same number, was distributed around the field, to keep the ground clear. The spectators occupied a hill, which rises with a gentle ascent from the field, in such a manner that 50,000 persons of both sexes were delighted with a complete view of whatever was done, without confusion or danger. On the most central part of the hill there were boxes erected, which accommodated nearly a thousand persons with seats. The General was received by the discharge of cannon, and passed along the line, which, from the choice of the men, the uniformity of their dress, and the perfection of their appointments in every particular, was no less a subject of wonder than exultation, to those who examined it most critically. The performances of the men did not belie their appearance. They executed their motions with steadiness, their firings with exactness—and whether they advanced in line, formed or reduced columns, or marched in divisions, by batallions and companies, they equally exceeded the sanguine hopes of their most decided friends. When the common firing, manœuvres, and evolutions, were over, a

mock engagement was executed, in which the four battallions who had hitherto remained spectators, were to attack and defeat those already reviewed. The plan was admirably adapted to the nature of the ground. The attack was made from the opposite side of the river to that where the line stood; there the ground, gradually swelling into a gentle eminence, exhibited the troops formed for the attack, at the same time with those to be attacked, in the most picturesque point of view. The movements of the attacking troops, the well directed and well supported fire on both sides, the fording the river, the manœuvres to outflank the enemy, the partial retreat of the yielding army, and the final success of a well planned scheme of attack, altogether exhibited as perfect an image of war as can well be conceived. The spectators, as well as the soldiers, for a moment seemed to be possessed of the ardour, the hopes, and fears, which attend a real action. This added much to the spirit and effect; it luckily added nothing to the danger. It is difficult to say which called most for admiration, the spectacle or the spectators? Three thousand men in arms, steady, uniform, obedient; or thirty thousand spectators, building their hopes of peace and security on the skill and activity displayed. In that vast multitude not a man disturbed the general harmony, by any act of indecency or violence. At seven o'clock in the evening the troops marched back to town, after having been nine hours under arms. The 13th, the troops marched again to the field, when those who had kept the lines the preceding day, passed in review before the General; and in the engagement which succeeded, were attacked and routed by those battallions which they had before attacked and defeated. The merit of the two days was equal, but the concourse of people on the last was vastly greater. Among the persons of distinction present was my Lord Camden, who seemed to be affected with the same pleasure which possessed every friend of the house of Hanover. The above review, with all its paraphernalia, and imposing pomp and circumstances, still forms the theme of conversation among the old inhabitants of Belfast and the surrounding country, many of whom, yet living, have a vivid recollection of the scene, and all its de-

tails, and appear to dwell with peculiar pleasure upon the thrilling incidents of those days. The troops reviewed were as follow:—

## FIRST BRIGADE.

|                 |     |     |                  |     |     |                    |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| First Battalion | ... | ... | Banks, commander | ... | ... | 302                |
| Second          | ... | ... | Saunders         | ... | ... | 311                |
| Third           | ... | ... | P. Stewart       | ... | ... | 336                |
| Fourth          | ... | ... | Colonel Dawson   | ... | ... | 306                |
|                 |     |     |                  |     |     | <hr/> Total, 1,255 |

## SECOND BRIGADE.

|  |     |     |                  |     |     |              |
|--|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| First Battalion  | ... | ... | Colonel Stewart  | ... | ... | 406          |
| Second   | ... | ... | Colonel Brownlow | ... | ... | 328          |
| Third  | ... | ... | Brown, commander | ... | ... | 339          |
| Fourth   | ... | ... | Major M'Manus    | ... | ... | 373          |
|  |     |     |                  |     |     | <hr/>        |
|  |     |     |                  |     |     | Total, 1,446 |
| Two brass Field-pieces, six pounders, of Belfast Train |     |     |                  |     |     | 32           |
| Newry Horse  |     |     |                  |     |     | 30           |
| General Knox's Troop                                   |     |     |                  |     |     | 25           |

Grand Total, 2,788

1782. Population of Belfast, according to the return of this year—13,105.

The church of Ballymoney, with a tower and cupola, erected on the site of an ancient one, and enlarged and improved in 1829.

1783. A newspaper commenced in Belfast called the "*Belfast Mercury*."

The Belfast chamber of commerce established; its meetings were suspended from 1794 till 1802, since which time they have continued without interruption, much to the benefit of the trade and interests of the town.

A bridge being about to be built over the river Bann at Toome, by the then Lord O'Neil, the ruinous walls of the castle were taken down, to assist in its erection; and the rubbish was carried off to bottom a new road through a marsh leading to the bridge.

Foundation laid of the old Roman Catholic chapel, Chapel-lane, Belfast; cost £1,200.

Meeting-house of the first Presbyterian congregation, Rosemary-street, Belfast, erected.

1784. Drumbeg Church erected, partly by subscription and partly by a grant from the Board of First Fruits.

The customs of Belfast alone amounted to £101,376.

First cotton mill, for spinning twist by water, erected by Messrs. Nathaniel Wilson and Nicholas Grimshaw.

The manufacture of sail-cloth introduced into Belfast.

White Linen Hall, Belfast, built by the subscriptions of the inhabitants, at an expense of £10,000. The ground was granted in perpetuity by the then Marquis of Donegall; the sale of white cloth commenced in the following year.

The value of brown linen, sold in the markets of Ulster, amounted to £1,214,560, and for several years prior and subsequent to the Union, the total exports amounted to £2,600,000, of which nearly one-half was the produce of the county Antrim.

1785. His Royal Highness Prince William Henry, afterwards William IV., when a lieutenant in the navy, on board the *Hebe*, frigate, Commodore Gower, arrived in the bay of Carrickfergus, on which occasion the volunteers of the town solicited the honour of forming a body guard for his Royal Highness, which he declined.

The Roman Catholic chapel of Loughguile erected.

Belfast employed 35 vessels in its foreign, and 20 in its home trade, the aggregate burden of which was 10,040 tons.

The corporation for preserving and improving the port and harbour of Belfast, embodied by act of parliament (25th Geo. III.), giving power to the corporation to make bye-laws for cleansing and improving the harbour, regulating the conduct of masters and owners of shipping, lighters, &c., resorting to the port; throwing in and taking out ballast; stationing and mooring the vessels, imposing fines, employing and licensing pilots, building wharves, making wet and dry docks, &c. The profit arising from this office, after defraying expenses, is, by the said act, at the disposal of the president and committee of the Belfast Charitable Society, for the support of the poor-house and infirmary.

1786. Ballyeaston church erected.

Belfast Academy instituted, 25th January. The affairs of this seminary are under the direction of a president, trustees, and patrons. It contains four schools, over each of which a separate master presides; there are also classes for



the oriental and modern languages. At the head of the seminary is placed a principal, who is charged with the general superintendence of the whole establishment.

1787. The Duke of Rutland, Lord Lieutenant, landed at Carrickfergus, received an entertainment from the inhabitants, and conferred the honour of knighthood on the Mayor, W. Kirk, Esq.

Bank formed in Belfast; partners, John Ewing, John Holmes, John Brown, and John Hamilton; issued notes payable in gold.

A second Bank formed in Belfast; partners, Waddel Cunningham, C. Rankin, W. Brown, and J. Campbell; also issued notes payable in gold.

Three hundred houses built in Belfast this year.

1788. Belfast Library and Society for Promoting Knowledge established; the society is under the direction of a president, vice-president, and committee, annually elected, and its meetings are held in the centre building of the White Linen Hall, where the library is kept, which now contains nearly 9,000 volumes of history, biography, voyages, travels, encyclopedias, French and English; works on natural philosophy, natural history, science, and the arts; dictionaries, maps, charts, reviews, magazines, philosophical and scientific journals, &c. A register of the weather is kept by the librarian. A superb addition has lately been made to the library, of a commodious and elegantly fitted up apartment.

1790. Northern Whig Club formed.

1791. The first Society of United Irishmen sat in Belfast, in the month of October, when Mr. R. Simms was secretary. They published their plan and prospectus in the *Northern Star*.

Belfast Theatre erected.

Census of Belfast taken by Mr. Hyndman, 3,107 houses, containing 8,932 males, and 9,388 females—total 18,320.—Ballymacarrett houses, 279, containing 596 males, and 612 females—total 1,208.

Ship building commenced in Belfast by William Ritchie and Brothers. Previous to this time all vessels belonging to the port of Belfast were built and repaired in England or Scotland.

Ballyintoy glebe-house erected on a glebe of forty acres.

The extent of plantations in the county of Antrim was, —thirty-five acres of oak, four of ash, ninety-nine of elm, eleven of beech, seventeen of fir, 202 of orchards, and 1,256 of mixed plantations ; in all 1,624 acres.

1792. Meeting-house of the fourth Presbyterian congregation, Donegall-street, Belfast, erected.

Public Dispensary established in Belfast.

First iron foundry established in Belfast.

Total tonnage of Belfast shipping at this period, 9,765 tons ; number of vessels, fifty-eight.

JUNE 14. The anniversary of the French Revolution celebrated in Belfast with great pomp and splendour, by a procession of many volunteer corps, in which was displayed various pageants and emblematic figures, with appropriate mottoes, drawn by four horses. On one of these was inscribed "The releasement of the prisoners from the Bastile," on the reverse of which was a figure of Hibernia, with one hand and foot in shackles, and a volunteer presenting to her a figure of Liberty. On another was this inscription "Our Gallic brethren were born 14th July, 1789, alas! we are still in embryo;" on the reverse, "superstitious jealousy, the cause of the Irish Bastile, let us unite and destroy it," Amongst them was a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, with this motto, "where liberty is, there is my country."—When the procession was over, the volunteers and many of the inhabitants of the town assembled in the linen hall, and entered upon the discussion of Parliamentary Reform and Catholic emancipation ; after which two addresses were voted, one to the National Assembly of France, and another to the People of Ireland. The principal speakers were,—Dr. Caldwell, Messrs. Simpson and Neilson, the Revds. T. Birch, Sinclair Kelburne, and Dr. Dickson.

SEPTEMBER 7. Two Volunteers corps, under arms, assembled at Belfast, and re-adopted the Dungannon Resolutions of 15th February, 1782, and 8th September, 1783.

Joseph Cuthbert, a master tailor, in Belfast, was sentenced to stand in the pillory, for an attempt to seduce one of the military from his allegiance.

1793.—MARCH. The Irish Volunteers suppressed by proclamation. In a report of the secret committee of the House of Lords, for March, 1793, a full account is given of a tumultuary spirit, which had manifested itself in Belfast and the county of Antrim, fostered by various publications and military display. Accordingly, a proclamation was issued by the Lord Lieutenant, to the effect that no more armed associations should be raised, and, that bodies of men should not appear, either in the town of Belfast or elsewhere, in military array. The proclamation stated, that great quantities of arms and gunpowder had been collected at Belfast,—that bodies of men were exercised and drilled by night as well as by day,—and that, although their avowed object was a redress of certain alleged grievances, yet their real intentions were of a much more aspiring nature, being nothing less than to dictate, not only to parliament, but to the government itself.

There were four undisguised societies of United Irishmen in existence in Belfast.

A Discount office was established in Belfast, conducted by Messrs. Gilbert M'Ilveen, and Co.

SEPTEMBER 28. The Antrim Regiment of Militia embodied; Colonel Right Hon. John, afterwards Viscount O'Neill, Lieutenant Colonel O'Hara, Major Hardy, Field officers. The facings of this regiment were originally yellow, but subsequently changed to sky blue. Upon the lamented death of Lord O'Neill, who was assassinated at Antrim, on the 7th June, 1798, in the insurrection of that day, the honour of commanding the Antrim Regiment was conferred upon his eldest son and successor, the late Lord, brother to the present universally esteemed Viscount O'Neill, who continued to hold that distinguished rank until the period of his death in 1841.

1794. Carrickfergus castle underwent a thorough repair, and cannon were mounted on its bastions.

Belfast Lying-in-Hospital originally established in Donegall-street.

In the latter part of this year several additional societies of United Irishmen were formed in Belfast.

1795.—MARCH. On the removal of Earl Fitzwilliam, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, after his short administration, the 28th of this month was observed by the inhabitants of Belfast as a day of national calamity; no counting-houses or shops being open, and all kind of business was, for the day, suspended.

MAY 10. Delegates from seventy-two societies of United Irishmen, belonging to the counties of Antrim and Down, met in Belfast and formed that extensive system of committees, which rendered their plans so remarkable and ingenious, and which best suited their rising importance.

1796. The month of September, in this year, was distinguished for the great number of arrests which took place in Belfast for high treason.

1797.—JANUARY. On the appearance of the French fleet off Bantry Bay, the great majority of the inhabitants of Belfast agreed to arm as yeomanry, in defence of their country.

FEBRUARY 5. Messrs. William and Robert Simms, proprietors of the *Northern Star*, newspaper, were arrested and sent to Newgate; the latter was subsequently confined at Fort George, in Scotland.

In the Summer of this year, every male adult in the island of Rathlin, with the exception of the parish priest and another gentleman, took the test of an united Irishman, in a natural cavern on the island called "Bruce's Cave."

Belfast Fever Hospital established in West-street; this valuable institution was incorporated with the Public Dispensary, and removed to Frederick-street in 1817.

1798. Lagan Foundry, Ballymacarrett established.

MAY. Martial law was proclaimed in the principal streets of Belfast, and four companies of yeomanry, which had been formed here, commenced permanent duty. The brass field pieces, which belonged to the volunteers, were all delivered to General Nugent, with the exception of one, which was afterwards taken from the insurgents at Antrim. On the intelligence that the insurgents had assembled in force at Larne, every effort was made by the proper authorities, to frustrate their intentions of opening a communication with their disaffected associates in Belfast. Sentinels were placed at the

different outlets from the town, with rigid injunctions to permit no persons to pass going to or coming from market. A number of the inhabitants were, at the same time, formed into supplementary corps of yeomanry. When the insurrection broke out in the county of Down, many persons fled hither for security from different parts of the country. While the troops were engaged with the insurgents at Ballynahinch, on the 12th and 13th of June, the shops in Belfast were closed, and the inhabitants obliged to remain within doors.—The cannonading was distinctly heard here, and after the defeat of the insurgents in that quarter, the Belfast troop of yeoman cavalry published a declaration of loyalty.

Carrickfergus castle was used as a state prison at this time, and for some years after.

In the disturbances of this year, the town of Ballymoney was almost destroyed by fire, but was soon after rebuilt and considerably improved.

JUNE 7. Battle of Antrim. In the insurrectionary movement of this year, the town of Antrim was the principal scene of the hostilities which took place in the county. The insurgents had planned an attack on the town for this day, but their design becoming known to the military authorities of the district, troops were hastily assembled in the town, and the inhabitants also mustered for its defence. The conflict which ensued was obstinately maintained on both sides, but at length the insurgents gave way and retreated, leaving behind them a number of pikes and muskets. It is asserted that upwards of nine hundred of them were killed in the town, and many more in the retreat. It was here on this fatal day, that Lord O'Neill met his death, at the hands of an assassin, whilst engaged in the act of expostulating with the misguided insurgents on their folly and crime in taking up arms against the laws and institutions of their country.

The town of Randalstown was attacked by a body of insurgents, who set fire to the market-house, and continued to devastate the place till the approach of Colonels Clavering and Durham, when they retreated to Toome Bridge, and posted themselves on the eastern side of the river Bann, where they remained for two days. On the approach of General

Knox, who was marching hither with 1500 yeomanry, to prevent the disaffected of Derry from joining them, they broke down one of the arches of the bridge, with a view to interrupt his progress.

Ballymena was the scene of an obstinate conflict between the yeomanry, and the United Irishmen of the surrounding district.

During the disturbances of this year, Larne was attacked by the insurgents, who were repulsed by the Tay Fencibles, assisted by the yeomanry and inhabitants.

1799.—MAY 17. The last execution for high treason took place at Belfast, soon after which, the Court Martial was dissolved, and partial tranquillity restored.

OCTOBER 7. The Marquis Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant, arrived in Belfast, and was presented by the sovereign and burgesses, with an address in favour of the act of Union, which was then under discussion in parliament.

The Manufacture of vitriol introduced into Belfast.

1800. An act of Parliament obtained by the inhabitants of Belfast, at an expense of £1,260, by virtue of which commissioners and a committee of police were vested with authority to carry into execution all the provisions of the said act, respecting the lighting, cleansing, and paving of the streets, as well as various other circumstances affecting the health, safety, and comfort of the inhabitants.

Belfast Public Bakery established. At this period extreme dearth prevailed, and the poor would have felt its effects still more keenly, had it not been for the timely establishment of this valuable institution.

The church of the parish of Layde erected, about a mile from Cushendall.

1801. Belfast Literary Society formed, for the advancement and cultivation of literature, science, and the arts, and receiving information respecting the history, antiquities, and present state of Ireland.

1802.—JANUARY 31. Weekly or Sunday school commenced in Belfast, supported by voluntary contributions, for the education of such young persons as required it. Sunday schools, soon after, became numerous in the town.

The customs' duties paid at Belfast, for the year ending 5th January, 1802, amounted to £182,314 5s. 11½d.

A barrack, guard-room, and apartments for the officers of the garrison, erected within the walls of Carrickfergus castle.

1803. Lower Massereene and Glenavy Agricultural Society established.

1804. Independent Meeting-house, Donegall-street, Belfast, erected.

1805. Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Donegall-square, Belfast, erected.

1806. Belfast Medical Library formed under the superintendence of the Medical Society.

A Society for acquiring knowledge formed in Belfast.

1807. An octagonal spire added to Lisburn cathedral, the expense of which was defrayed by the Marquis of Hertford.

The church of Derriaghy repaired and enlarged by means of £332 6s. 1½d., parochial assessment, and £73 6s. 11½d., borrowed from a school fund.

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution first projected, and within a few weeks of the promulgation of the design subscriptions to the amount of £16,000 were raised, for carrying it into effect. This sum was further increased by subscriptions from other parts of Ireland, and from England; and under the patronage of the Marquis of Hastings, nearly £5,000 was subscribed in India, making the total amount £25,000.

The population of Belfast, as ascertained by Arthur Thompson, Esq., was 22,095; number of houses, 3,514.

1808—JUNE. A rod of pure gold, thirty-eight inches in length, weighing twenty-one ounces and a-half, was found in a rivulet adjoining the ruins of the abbey of Bonamargy, parish of Culfeightrin.

1809. House of Industry established in Smithfield, Belfast.

The number of houses for public worship in Belfast was ten, viz.: St. Anne's Episcopal church, Donegall-street; St. Mary's Roman Catholic chapel, Chapel-lane; five Presbyterian meeting-houses, three of which were in Rosemary-street, then Rosemary-lane,—one in Berry-street, and one in Donegall-street; an Independent Meeting-house in Donegall-

street ; a Friends' Meeting-house in the rear of North-street ; and a Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Donegall-square, east.

The glebe-house of Ramoan built, at an expense of £480, of which £369 was a gift, and £110 a loan from the Board of First Fruits.

1810. The patrons and principal subscribers of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution were, by act of parliament, incorporated a body politic.

Muslins to the amount of £6,050, and cottons and cotton yarns of the value of £30,578 were exported from Belfast.

There were seventy-nine vessels registered, belonging to Belfast, employing 682 mariners.

The church of Finvoy erected, by aid of a gift of £200, and a loan of £400, from the Board of First Fruits.

The glebe-house of Billy erected.

Crebilly Roman Catholic chapel erected.

1811. Lancasterian school-house, Frederick-street, Belfast, erected, at a cost of £2,000, raised by means of a lottery and local subscriptions. The course of education in this seminary embraces reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, book-keeping, mensuration, geometry, natural and civil history, animal physiology, and political economy. This school was originally formed on the plan of Joseph Lancaster, in 1811, but it is now, and has been for some time, under the National Board of education ; it is supported by a grant of £70 per annum from the Board, aided by private subscriptions. It was made over by the committee to the Ladies Local Association for female industrial schools, on the 23d of March, 1847.

Belfast Historic Society established, for the study of general history, the British laws and constitution, and the cultivation of oratory.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Chapel, Donegall-street, Belfast, erected ; it is an elegant and commodious edifice, in the later style of English architecture.

Belfast Foundry, Donegall-street, established, in which the patent rotatory steam engines, invented by one of the proprietors, are manufactured.

1812. St. George's church, High-street, Belfast, erected, on the site of a former edifice called the " Corporation church."



The highly enriched and magnificent portico of this church, consists of six splendid columns, and four fluted pilasters, supporting a cornice and pediment, in the tympanum of which are the arms of the Bishops of Down and Connor, and of the town, in alto-relievo. This splendid specimen of Corinthian architecture was removed from the front of a palace built by the Earl of Bristol, when Bishop of Derry, at Ballyscullion, on the shores of Lough Beg, the materials of which were quarried from the Derry mountains, and worked by Irish artists; and after the noble prelate's death, on the demolition of the palace, purchased by the late Dr. Alexander, then Bishop of Down and Connor, and afterwards of Meath, and presented by him to this church.

Reformed Presbyterian Covenanters' Meeting-house, Dublin-road, Belfast, erected.

Friends' Meeting-house, Frederick-street, Belfast, erected.

Brown-street school, Belfast, established under the patronage of the Marquis of Donegall, and the school-house, with residences for the Master and Mistress, erected at an expense of £1,500, raised by subscription. The Sunday school is exclusively devoted to the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and such other means of religious instruction as the committee, managers, and teachers may be able to devise and employ.—In the Day schools, the children are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and such branches as may appear to the teachers to suit the capacity of the pupil.

A lofty square embattled tower, surmounted by an elegant octagonal spire, added to Antrim church, towards defraying the expense of which the Board of First Fruits granted a loan of £1,500.

Ramoan church rebuilt, by means of a loan from the Board of First Fruits. The glebe-house of the parish of Dunluce erected, on a glebe of twenty acres, at an expense of £700, defrayed by the Board of First Fruits.

1813. Belfast consisted of 4,415 houses, containing 27,832 inhabitants; 331 houses were uninhabited, and 141 in course of erection.

Kilwaughter glebe-house erected by the Board of First Fruits.

Tickmacreevan glebe-house built, by aid of a gift of £450, and a loan of £46, from the Board of First Fruits.

1814. The Royal Belfast Academical Institution received from parliament a grant of £1,500 per annum, which was continued during the years 1815, and 1816; after which it ceased till 1824, when it was renewed, on the recommendation of the Commissioners of Education, and in 1834 was increased to £3,500, of which sum £2,000 was for additional buildings, and £1,500 for general expenditure.

The amount of duties paid at the Custom-house, Belfast, this year, was £450,498.

Ballintoy church erected, by means of subscriptions, raised in the parish, assisted by a grant from the Board of First Fruits.

Glenavy church erected at a cost of £1,125 16s. 1d., towards which the Marquis of Hertford contributed £738 9s. 2½d., and Lady Langford £18 9s. 2½d.—£138 9s. 2½d. was raised by parochial assessment, and £230 8s. 4½d. lent by the Board of First Fruits.

The glebe-house of Carnmoney erected by means of a gift of £300, and a loan of £400 from the Board of First Fruits; the glebe comprises eighty statute acres, valued at £115 per annum.

Lough Neagh was completely frozen over, and so thick was the ice, that Colonel Heyland went across on horseback from Crumlin water-foot to Ram's-island.

1815. Rathlin church erected by the Board of First Fruits.

The church of Billy erected on the site of a former one, at an expense of £1,200, defrayed by the Board of First Fruits.

Carncastle church erected, by means of parochial assessment, assisted by a grant of £350 from the Board of First Fruits.

The glebe-house of Ahoghill erected at a cost of £1,600, defrayed by the Board of First Fruits; the glebe contains 138½ acres.

1816. The first appointment of a stipendiary magistrate to Belfast.

Belfast Savings' Bank, the first institution of the kind in Ireland, established in January, for the receipt and accumu-

lation of the savings of the industrious classes. At the yearly settlement of the books, November, 1843, the balance in the bank amounted to £106,075 8s. 4d., being the property of 5,094 depositors.

NOVEMBER.—Belfast Master Mariners' Association established for securing annuities to the widows and families of members; allowances to members in time of sickness, and in cases of shipwreck, &c. It is supported by entrance fees, monthly subscriptions, and fines; besides the interest of a large accumulated fund. In addition to master-mariners, there are several merchants, shipowners, and other respectable traders, members of this praiseworthy association.

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Cotton-court, Belfast, erected.

Finvoy church erected by means of a gift of £184 12s. 3½d., and a loan of £369 4s. 7½d., from the Board of First Fruits.

The glebe house of Dunaghy built by aid of a gift of £350, and a loan of £450 from the Board of First Fruits; the glebe contains twenty-five acres.

The princely pile of Shane's Castle, for centuries the residence of the royal house of O'Neil, was destroyed by an accidental fire. At the time of the conflagration, a superb addition to the original pile was in course of erection, and this, as well as the inhabited building, with an extensive library, and many valuable paintings, were totally destroyed; a large fortified esplanade, and a grand modern conservatory of rare and foreign plants, alone escaped without injury. The remains of this noble mansion are situated near the margin of Lough Neagh, where the rolling waters of that majestic lake receive their ancient tribute of the limpid Maine, and surrounded by a demesne, which, for extent, beautifully diversified, picturesque, and romantic scenery, is one of the noblest in Ireland.—The style of Shane's castle was that of the modern castellated Gothic, "which," says Colonel de Montmorency, "although inferior in many respects to the primitive gloomy, yet ever sublime gothic of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, will be esteemed, nevertheless, an architectural form much more characteristic of a proud baronial manor, turreted and embattled in the plenitude and full display of feudal pomp and power, than anything borrowed from,

or mixed up with the Greek and Roman orders could or ought to produce." "It fills one with melancholy ideas of departed grandeur," says Mr. Robert Patterson, in a paper read before the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society, "when the stately pile has gradually crumbled beneath the touch of time,—when the foxglove, the moss, the lichen, the thistle, the long luxuriant grass, and the ever-verdant ivy :—

Group their wild hulls with every stain  
The weather-beaten walls retain.

The moralist may find a pleasing object of contemplation,—the painter a glowing subject for his pencil—but here where the ruin is not sufficiently old for this, where time has not wrought the fall—where the white walls, stained occasionally by the dark smoke wreaths, alone meet the eye—we cannot but deplore the fall of the noble and venerable palace."

1817. JANUARY. Belfast contained 5,120 inhabited, and 458 uninhabited houses.

The old House of Correction, Howard-street, Belfast, erected.

The Fever Hospital, Frederick-street, Belfast, erected.

1818. The *Irishman*, a weekly newspaper, commenced in Belfast, by John Lawless, Esq.

The church of the union of Connor, comprising the vicarage of Connor, and the rectories of Killagan, Soler, and Killyglen, erected by the Board of First Fruits.

1819. The first steam-boat that crossed the channel to Belfast, was from Liverpool in this year, but it was not until five years after, that steam-boats were employed in the transmission of merchandise.

The glebe-house of Glenavy, parish of Crumlin, erected on a site given by the Marquis of Hertford, at an expense of £1,072, towards the defraying of which the Board of First Fruits made a grant of £300, and a loan of £500.

1820. Sail-making commenced in Belfast, and is now in great repute.

The Commercial Buildings, Belfast, erected at an expense of £20,000, by a proprietary of 200 shareholders, who are incorporated by act of parliament ; by a committee of whom, annually elected, its affairs are conducted.

The church of Armoy erected by the Board of First Fruits.

A grain-market established at Ballymoney.

The glebe-house of Connor erected, on a glebe of forty acres, by the Board of First Fruits.

A Roman Catholic chapel erected at Ballymena.

1821. Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society instituted, for the cultivation of Natural History, and the investigation of the Topography, Statistics, and Antiquities of Ireland. The meetings of this society are held in the Belfast Museum, College-square, at which papers are read by the members in succession.

Belfast Sunday School Union formed.

The amount of customs' duties paid at Belfast was £306,263, 18s. 4d., and of excise £221,000; the expense of collecting this revenue was £9,814.

There were 74,445 tons of coal imported into Belfast this year.

Dunluce church erected, on the site of a former edifice, which was a ruin in 1625; the Board of First Fruits granted £900, and gifted £300 for its erection.

1822. Belfast contained 5,932 houses, and 37,117 inhabitants.

Belfast first lighted with gas, from works belonging to a company, incorporated by act of parliament.

The granite conical covering, which surmounted the round tower at Antrim being shattered, as it was supposed, by lightning, was taken down and replaced by one of freestone.—The door of this tower is nine feet from the ground, fronting the north, and is four feet three inches in height, by two feet in width; the wall at the sill is two feet nine inches in thickness. The outside lintel of the door consists of one large stone, as does also the one inside; and between these is a beam of oak across the door, which appears to have been placed there at the erection of the tower, as it is scarcely possible that it could have been affixed there since.

*Belfast Mercantile Register* established.

1823. The glebe-house of Kirkinriola erected.

1824. Several spiral gold ornaments were found in a field, adjoining the Druid's altar, in Islandmagee; they are supposed

to have been armlets, or bracelets for the arms; the largest weighed 526 grains, and a lesser one 168 grains. They were turned up by the plough within a few feet of the altar. In ploughing the same field, in 1817, a spiral instrument of pure gold, eleven inches in length was found, and some time after several detached parts of a gold collar or torquois were dug up near the altar.

Ballinderry church erected, by means of a loan of £2,030, 15s. 4½d., from the Board of First Fruits.

The glebe-house of Larne built, on a glebe of 3½ acres, by the Board of First Fruits.

The glebe-house of Killead built by the incumbent, at an expense of £2000, on a glebe of ten acres.

A Roman Catholic chapel erected in the parish of Killead.

The Northern Banking Company, Belfast, formed, with a capital of £500,000.

1825. Belfast Mechanics' Institute founded in May, this year.

The parish of Portglenone formed, by separating twenty-one townlands from the parish of Ahoghill.

1826. Belfast Banking Company established with a capital of £500,000.

MARCH 1. A Branch Office of the Provincial Bank of Ireland established at Belfast.

A spacious Graving Dock completed at Belfast by the Ballast Corporation, at an expense of £26,000.

Society for the relief of the destitute sick formed in Belfast; this society's benevolence is confined to those who are really destitute, where sickness and poverty are united.

The glebe-house of Aghalee, Aghanlee, or Soldierstown erected, on a glebe of thirteen acres, valued at £12 8s. 6d. per annum.

The glebe-house of Derrykeighan built on a glebe of twenty eight acres, at a cost of £1,107 13s. 10d., a loan from the Board of First Fruits.

A Roman Catholic chapel erected near Moneyglass, parish of Duneane.

A Roman Catholic chapel erected at Carrickfergus.

A Mendicity Society formed at Carrickfergus.

1827. Society for Discountenancing Vice, and Promoting the Knowledge of the Christian religion, established in Belfast.

A Society for clothing the poor in Belfast, formed.

Belfast Botanic Garden formed by a number of gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, anxious to promote the study of Botany and Horticulture. It is the property of shareholders, and is vested in three trustees, and its affairs are managed by a committee of twenty-one members, elected by ballot. The garden is delightfully situated on the banks of the Lagan, about a mile from the Commercial Buildings, on the Malone road.

A Dispensary opened in Chapel-lane, Belfast.

Presbyterian Meeting-house, Fisherwick-place, Belfast, opened for public worship, on the 20th September, by the Rev. Dr. Chalmers.—This edifice is of polished freestone, of excellent quality, the superstructure resting on a granite basement, which is elevated above the surface about three feet. On the north and south sides are two ranges of well-proportioned windows, separated by a fascia course, which surrounds the building. The principal entrance is on the west front, which has a handsome portico of the Ionic order, consisting of four columns, and antae, which support a regular entablature, and angular pediment. The columns measure twenty-seven feet in height; the capitals of which are imitated from the Ionic temple of Ilissus, near Athens. The doorways are of pyramidal form, as is usual in Grecian buildings. The entablature of the order is continued along the front of the edifice, supported by antae, over which runs an attic balustrade. The interior of the house displays considerable architectural taste and ingenuity; it contains two principal side galleries, and one on the west end, of a semi-elliptic form; over which are commodious galleries for the accommodation of the poor. The ceiling is tastefully formed into panels and compartments of stucco work. The extent of the front is about sixty-nine feet, and the length, including the portico, ninety-eight feet; it is calculated to contain seven-hundred persons. This structure was erected from the design of Mr. Duff, architect, Newry.

Templepatrick church erected, by means of a grant from

the Board of First Fruits ; no church existed here from the time of the reformation till this period. This place takes its name from a preceptory of Knights Templars, established at a very early period, of which there are now no remains, except what is included in the walls of Castle Upton (the crypt under which is in a perfect state, and the finely groined roof in good preservation) and the cemetery of the ancient Temple church, in which is the mausoleum of the Templeton family, and the tomb of the Rev. Josias Welsh, grandson of John Knox, the Scottish reformer.

A weekly market established at Bushmills, by Sir F. W. Macnaghten, Bart.

A Dispensary established at Ballymoney.

Ballinderry church erected, at a cost of £2,000 ; of which sum the Marquis of Hertford contributed £1,000.

After a violent storm, which swept away some of the sand at Portrush, the remains of an ancient town were discovered, by which the foundations of the houses could be seen, wherein were found domestic utensils, moose deer's horns, brazen spoon heads, and other military weapons. In the immediate neighbourhood of Portrush, is a rock in which are imbedded large and perfect specimens of the *cornu-ammonis* ; various other species of fossils are frequently discovered.

Two ancient brazen war trumpets were found near Bushmills ; they were sent to England as a present to the late Dr. Clarke.

1828. The prison of the manor-court of Belfast abolished, and defaulters from it first sent to the county gaol.

Presbyterian Meeting-house, May-street, Belfast, opened for public worship, by the Rev. Edward Irving, of London. This edifice is raised on a framed foundation ; the front is of Scammozian Ionic, having two columns and four pilasters, twenty-eight feet high, and fluted. The columns and interior pilasters form a piazza thirty-six feet long and seven feet wide, over which rises a beautiful pediment. The front of the building is finished with a regular architrave, frieze, and block cornice, which give it a light, pleasing, and, at the same time, imposing effect. Around the windows are moulded architraves. The entrance is approached by a flight of



eight stone steps ; the floor of the building stands considerably above the level of the street. The interior is finished in a superb style.

The Maiden Lighthouses, north-east of Bengally head, erected by the Ballast Office, of Dublin. The eastern light is ninety-four feet in height above the sea, and the western one eighty-four feet. The cost of maintaining these two light-houses, for the year 1840, amounted to £1,505 11s. 4d.

1829. Belfast District Lunatic Asylum opened on the 2d June. This institution was established for the relief of the lunatic poor, by government, at an expense of £25,319. The district for which it serves, comprehends the counties of Antrim and Down, and the county of the town of Carrickfergus.

Donegall-street National School founded by the Most Rev. Dr. Crolly. This was the first school in the north of Ireland which placed itself in connexion with the National Board.

In a cairn on the black mountain, near Belfast, was found an urn containing two brass ornaments, a brazen spoon head, and a quantity of calcined human bones.

The Diocesan School, originally established at Carrickfergus, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was this year removed to Ballymena, where a building was erected for it, at a cost of £900, on a site granted by William Adair, Esq.

A handsome Roman Catholic chapel, and good school-house erected at Glenarm.

Culfeightrin church erected, by means of a loan from the Board of First Fruits,

Lissanoure castle, the seat of George Macartney, Esq., erected on the site of an ancient edifice, said to have been built in the reign of King John, by one Sir Philip Savage, and which, in later times, was the residence of the diplomatist and statesman, Earl Macartney.

1830. MAY 4. The first stone of the Belfast Museum laid by the Marquis of Donegall. On this interesting occasion, a bottle was deposited in the foundation stone, containing the current coins of the realm, copies of the various papers published by the Belfast Natural History Society, an impression

of the public seal of the corporation of the town, and four verses from the 12th chapter of the book of Job, written in fifteen different languages, from the 7th to the 11th verses, viz.—Hebrew, Greek, Irish, Welsh, Arabic, Latin, Italian, German, Danish, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Romaic, German-Hebrew, and English. The Belfast Museum is the first institution of the kind ever erected in Ireland by voluntary subscription.

Society for Promoting the Religious Improvement of the Poor, established in Belfast.

Belfast Savings' Bank erected in King-street, at an expense of £1,400.

Lying-in Hospital, Antrim-road, Belfast, erected, and the establishment removed from Donegall-street, where it had been originally established.

Association for the Protection of the Rights of Conscience, established at Belfast.

A Dispensary established at Bushmills, for the parishes of Billy, Dunluce, and Dunseverick.

Magheragall church rebuilt, by a loan of £1000 from the Board of First Fruits. Remains of the old church, which was destroyed in 1641, exist near Brookhill, the seat of James Watson, Esq.; many human bones have been dug up in this parish, and silver and copper coins of the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., have been found on Mr. Watson's estate, in whose possession they are. In Mr. Watson's grounds are two circular forts, opposite to which are several large stones, the remains of a cromlech, called the, "giant's cave."

According to the Report of the Commissioners on Irish Fisheries, the county of Antrim had engaged in that branch of its industrial resources fifteen decked, and twenty-seven half-decked vessels, 337 open sail-boats, 116 row-boats, and 2,126 fishermen.

1831. Belfast Ballast Corporation established by act of Parliament.

St. Ann's church, Belfast, Parochial Sunday and Daily Schools established.

Derrykeighan church erected, by means of a loan of £600

from the Board of First Fruits, and £565, raised by subscription.

The Meeting-house of the third Presbyterian congregation, Rosemary-street, Belfast, rebuilt, at an expense of £10,000: Mr. Miller, architect. This edifice is considered one of the most splendid of its kind in the three kingdoms. The front is enriched with a stately Grecian-Doric portico, of ten lofty columns, resting on a basement of twenty steps, and surmounted by a beautiful attic ballustrade, composed of a series of pedestals and light pierced work, which gives it a novel and pleasing effect; the other portions of the building are noble and elegant in design, and pleasing in detail, especially the grand stair-case, leading to the gallery, from which may best be observed that agreeable harmony of design and unity of effect, which characterize the whole of this chaste and beautiful edifice.

Gortree church erected, as a chapel of ease to the mother church of Killead, by means of a grant of £920 from the Board of First Fruits, and a gift of £305 from the Hon. Colonel Pakenham, by whom it is endowed with £100 per annum.

Newtowncrommelin church erected, by means of a gift of £800 from the Board of First Fruits.

Randalstown church, parish of Drummaul, rebuilt on the site of one erected in 1709, at a cost of £1,800, of which £300 was gifted by the late Lord O'Neil, who is interred in the burying-ground adjoining.

The glebe-house of Newtowncrommelin erected, by aid of a gift of £450, and a loan of £50 from the Board of First Fruits; the glebe consists of eight acres, valued at £8 per annum.

Many thousand Roman coins, of silver, were discovered under a stone near Bengore head, parish of Ballintoy.

1832. Cushendall church, parish of Layde, erected at an expense of £900, defrayed by the Board of First Fruits. The ancient church is in ruins, but the cemetery attached to it is still used as the burial ground for the surrounding district. The poet Ossian is said to have been born in this parish.

Dunseverick church erected by the Board of First Fruits. A Roman Catholic chapel erected at Larne.

A Branch Savings' Bank, in connexion with the Belfast Savings' Bank, established at Antrim.

The head and neck of a woodcock, in a petrified state, was found in the small river Margy, parish of Culfeightrin, near the ruins of the abbey of Bonamargy. The bill and head were of the natural colour, and the joint at the back of the head moved in the same manner as when the bird was alive.

1833. Christ Church, College-square, Belfast, opened for Divine service in July; it is a plain edifice, with a cut-stone front, and colonnade of the Ionic order, surmounted with an entablature; the other parts are of brick, with windows in recesses, ornamented with circular architraves; there are sittings for one thousand persons on the ground floor, and six hundred in the gallery. The erection of this edifice cost £5,000, of which sum £3,000 was raised by subscription, and £2000 granted by the Board of First Fruits.

Diocesan Seminary, Donegall-street, Belfast, established in November. This institution is under the patronage and direction of the Right Rev. C. Denvir, D.D., Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor.

The number of vessels which entered inwards into the port of Belfast, was 2,445, and cleared outwards 1,391; and the amount of duties paid at the custom-house exceeded £412,000.

A Branch of the Provincial Bank of Ireland established in Ballymena, and Branches of the Northern and Belfast Banks, in 1834.

1834. JANUARY. St. George's church daily school opened in Belfast.

The manufacture of machinery for spinning flax introduced into Belfast.

A Branch of the Belfast Bank established at Ballymoney, and one of the Ulster Bank in 1836.

A handsome pier constructed at Carrickfergus, at an expense of £2,600, by local subscriptions, aided by a grant from government.

1835. The imports of Belfast amounted to £3,695,438, and its exports to £4,341,794.

The receipts of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution

amounted to £3,646 8s. 5d., and the expenditure to £3,735 19s. 5d.

A Branch of the Northern Banking Company established at Lisburn.

On the night of the 19th of September, the people in the vicinity of Slogan or Sluggan Bog, which lies on the right of the mail-coach road, from Randalstown to Ballymena, were thrown into a state of alarm, by repeated loud noises, resembling peals of thunder; these were soon discovered to proceed from the bog, and in a short time the whole of that immense tract, containing fifteen hundred acres, was in motion; proceeding in a north-westerly direction, it spread over about fifty perches of the road, from ten to fifteen feet deep; moving on, it flowed into the river Maine, and almost stopped its course, although at this place the river was of great width and depth. Notwithstanding there was no loss of life on this extraordinary limosan inundation, yet a considerable amount of property was destroyed; upwards of thirty acres of land was covered, one house and an immense quantity of corn, hay, &c., were irrecoverably lost. A very intelligent scientific gentleman, Mr. Getty, of Ballymena, thus accounts for this phenomenon:—"This extraordinary occurrence is evidently to be attributed to water, lodged beneath the peat, which, it should be observed, in this district, lies on a stratum of blue clay, impervious to water, so that, when any large quantity of water accumulates below, it must, of necessity, force up the bog, as it evidently has done in this instance, the bog being now, through a vast extent, full of great rents, filled with water."

A range of basaltic columns was discovered, on the south side of Cairncarvey hill, parish of Connor, three miles north-east of Antrim. These columns are as regularly formed as those of the Giant's Causeway; they are in general hexagonal, and incline from the perpendicular, towards the north, at an angle of about seventeen degrees, the columns at either side inclining towards the centre.

1836. The Ulster Banking Company established, with a capital of £1,000,000.

The first institution for the education of the Deaf and

Dumb and the Blind, College-street, Belfast, opened for the reception of pupils.

Society for preventing cruelty to animals formed in Belfast. Christ Church daily schools opened in November.

Branch of the Northern Banking Company established at Carrickfergus.

Branch of the Belfast Banking Company established at Larne.

There were 459 vessels, of the aggregate burden of 18,040 tons, exclusively employed in the trade of exporting lime from the Magheramorne lime works, parish of Glynn, which are the largest in the united kingdom. The sum paid weekly for labour, at this period, amounted to £1,804.—On a chymical analysis of the stone, by Dr. Thompson, of Glasgow, it was found to contain ninety-nine per cent. of pure lime.

1837. Corporation for preserving and improving the port and harbour of Belfast, were constituted by act of parliament, which received the royal assent on the 30th of June.

1838. Belfast Mechanics' Institute re-organised and revived.

There were fifty steam engines of 1,274 horses' power at full work, in and adjoining Belfast; of these twelve were erected between 1806 and 1827; ten between 1830 and 1834; seventeen in 1835-6-7, and eleven in 1838; all employed in spinning linen and cotton yarn, weaving, bleaching, dying, grinding, &c.

MARCH 30. Statistical Society of Ulster established in Belfast. The government of the society is vested in a president, vice-president, treasurer, and trustees, who, with ten members, form the council. Monthly meetings are held, when communications on statistical subjects are read, and other business transacted.

1839. Belfast Northern Sunday School Association formed.

Ulster Railway opened for traffic from Belfast to Lisburn. This was the first undertaking of the kind in Ulster, and second in Ireland, and was originated at a public meeting held at Belfast in the latter part of 1835. It was originally projected only as far as Portadown, whence canal communication existed to Newry, Lough Neagh, the Blackwater, and upper Lough Erne, but it has since been extended to Armagh.

The original capital was £800,000 ; the expenditure upon it up to 1842, was £314, 30211s. 9d. ; the cost of its construction up to a point twenty-four miles from Belfast, was £12,000 per mile for a single line of rails, including act of parliament, purchase of land, buildings at the terminus, depots at stations, carriages, engines, trucks, &c. It has subsequently been opened to Moira, Lurgan, and Portadown. The line is thirty-six statute miles in length ; it commences in the vicinity of Durham-street, Belfast, runs along the margin of the county Antrim, ascending the left side of the valley of the Lagan, to a point in the northern vicinity of Moira, passing between Dunmurry and Malone, touching the outskirts of Lisburn ; crosses the Lagan in the northern vicinity of Moira—traverses a narrow wing of the county of Down, to a point between the Lagan and Lurgan—it thence traverses the county of Armagh to the city, passing the northern outskirts of Lurgan and Portadown, and making a subsequent detour, so as to pass about midway between Richhill and Loughgall to Armagh.

1840. Belfast Loan Fund and Monte de Piete established.

St. Patrick's Orphan Society, May-street, Belfast, established in February. The objects of the society are to afford the means of support to destitute orphans, to bestow upon them a religious education, and to implant the seeds of virtue in their tender minds. There is also a school-house adjoining the society's establishment, for educating the poor of the neighbourhood. This society is supported by voluntary contributions, and is under the management of a committee of ladies connected with the Roman Catholic congregations of the town, the Right Rev. Dr. Denvir, patron.

Belfast Water Commissioners incorporated by act of parliament 19th June.

1841. Population of Belfast, according to the census of this year, within the Municipal boundary, 70,447 ; without, 4,861 ; total 75,308, of which 68,611 are in Antrim, and 6,697 in Down ;—total number of inhabited houses 10,906, averaging 06.9 persons to a house ; uninhabited houses 1,906 ; houses in course of erection, sixty-three.

Night Asylum for the houseless poor opened in Belfast.

This asylum is open to strangers as well as natives. From the last report of the committee, it appears that the inmates are found invariably to correspond with the activity or depression of trade,—with every increase or decrease in the demand for labour. It also appears that there has been a diminution in the number of strangers since the commencement of the institution. Thus, in 1843, there were 15,552 under this head; in 1844, 9,155; and in 1845, 5,933; while the increase, during the same period, of natives, has been in a corresponding ratio.

Belfast Flax Improvement Society organised 24th March. The principal object of this society is to impart instruction to local Farming Societies, by sending practical men to superintend the treatment of flax on the most improved method, and by the circulation of printed instructions, supplying proper implements, &c. This society was established under the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant, the Marquis of Downshire being president. Previous to its formation the agriculturists of this country were very deficient in the proper treatment of flax, in all its stages, and the large sums of money annually sent out of the country to the continent for flax, is calculated to be at least £2,000,000.—The idea of forming this society originated with Andrew Mulholland, Esq., who was also the first to introduce flax-spinning by machinery into Ireland.

Belfast Poor Law Union Workhouse opened for the reception of paupers on the 11th of May; it has accommodation for one thousand inmates; the union is situated in the counties of Antrim and Down.

There were in Belfast and its vicinity twenty-five steam power mills, one of which, Messrs. Mulholland's, employed 1000 persons, in spinning 800 tons of flax, valued at £80,000 to £100,000 per annum. This establishment has, during the present year, (1846) been considerably enlarged.

Population of the county Antrim, exclusive of the towns of Belfast and Carrickfergus, amounted to £276,188.

The total number of farms in the county, exclusive of those in the county of the town of Carrickfergus, was 23,526; of these 6,855 contained from one acre to five acres each,—



10,563, from five to fifteen acres each—4,220, from fifteen to thirty acres each—and 1,888 upwards of thirty acres each.

The county of Antrim contained in plantations sixty-three acres of oak, 211 of ash, 130 of elm, twenty-six of beech, 462 of fir, 8,063 of mixed plantations, and 1,403 of orchards; total 10,358 acres.

Lisburn Union Workhouse opened for the reception of paupers, 11th February; it has house accommodation for eight hundred persons, and the union is situated in the counties of Down and Antrim.

The population of the island of Rathlin amounted to 1,110

The total number and estimated value of live stock in the county of Antrim, was 22,651 horses and mules, £181,208; 69,638 cattle, £452,647; 18,150 sheep, £19,965; 32,882 pigs, £41,102; 153,672 poultry, £3,842; and 145 asses, £145;—total value of live stock £698,909.

1842. OCTOBER 25. The first Town Council, under the Irish Municipal Corporation Act, elected for Belfast, and on the 1st of November following, the council met for the first time, for the despatch of business, when they proceeded to elect a mayor, which distinguished honour fell upon George Dunbar, Esq., formerly one of the representatives in parliament for the borough. The corporation is elected by five wards, viz.—St. Anne's, Dock, Smithfield, St. George's, and Cromac, each ward returning two aldermen and six councillors, from the former of whom the mayor is chosen.

Malone church consecrated by the Right Rev. Dr. Mant, Lord Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore, on the 8th June.

The county surveyor had under his charge 1,900 miles of road; and from his appointment, in 1836, till the close of 1841, he superintended the formation of 135 miles of new roads.

There were twenty-five mills for spinning flax and cotton in the county of Antrim.

On making excavations at the foot of the ruins of Trumery round tower, a skull and other human bones were discovered.

1843. Queen's Bridge opened to the public, on the 31st

January. This splendid structure was erected on the site of the old Long Bridge, at the joint expense of the counties of Antrim and Down, at an expense of £28,000 ; it is composed of Welsh stone and granite.

Scottish United Secession church, College-square, Belfast, erected.

Trinity church, Antrim-road, Belfast, consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore.

Antrim Poor Law Union Workhouse opened for the reception of paupers, 19th September ; it has house accommodation for 700 persons ; this union is altogether in Antrim county.

Ballycastle Poor Law Union Workhouse opened for the reception of paupers, 3d January ; it has accommodation for 300 persons ; the union is entirely in the county of Antrim.

Ballymena Poor Law Union Workhouse opened for the reception of paupers, 17th November ; it has house accommodation for 900 persons ; the Union is altogether in the county Antrim.

Ballymoney Poor Law Union Workhouse opened for the reception of paupers, 6th March ; it has accommodation for 700 persons ; this union is situated partly in the county of Antrim, and partly in the county of Derry.

Larne Poor Law Union Workhouse opened for the reception of paupers, 4th January ; it has accommodation for 400 persons ; the union is exclusively in the county of Antrim.

The amount of postage collected in Belfast was £4,625 5s. 11d.

Belfast Fine Arts' Society instituted for the advancement of a taste for, and knowledge of the Fine Arts generally. Essays are read at the society's meetings on some branch of the subject, and new works of art exhibited.

1844. Amount of postage collected in Belfast £4,802 8s. 7d.

1845. The amount of duties paid at the custom-house, Belfast, was £376,767 16s. 3d.

FEBRUARY. Society for the amelioration of the condition of the working classes established in Belfast.

Belfast contained two distilleries, twelve breweries, four large, and several smaller foundries, two vitriol works, four

large ship-yards, tanneries, rope and canvas manufactories, glue-works, soperies, tobacco manufactories, &c. &c.

SEPTEMBER. The New Institution of the Ulster Society for promoting the education of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, opened for the reception of pupils.

Belfast contained nineteen National schools, in addition to many private seminaries.

1846. New House of Correction, Crumlin-road, Belfast, finished and opened for the reception of prisoners; it is built on the model of the London prison at Pentonville, and is capable of containing three hundred prisoners.

Belfast Bank erected on the site of the Old Exchange, in a classic and elegant style.

A new court-house erected at Ballymena. The interior of this building is most conveniently constructed; no other building in the county, of the same description, is capable of affording so much accommodation. The wooden boxes, or stables, in front or along side the bench, being at once well-arranged and roomy. The whole of the interior forms an oblong parallelogram, with entrances to the boxes from the side, as well as from the body of the court. It is capable of containing 1,500 persons, with a small gallery along the back wall, facing the bench. The Gothic windows in the sides, are found to answer their purpose well, and two fire places on either side, with grates, the lower bars of which are placed at a height of seven feet from the ground, add, in the winter season, considerably to the comfort of the place.

## APPENDIX.

### ACHADHDUBTHUIGH :

AGHADOWEY.

In Magh-li, a small territory, near the river Bann; St. Goar, or Guar, the son of Colman, who was surnamed the Big to distinguish him from another St. Goar, the son of Lasrum and surnamed the Little, was abbot of this ancient monastery in the seventh century, and is still the patron saint of it; the festival day is held on the 22d of January.

### ACHADHNACILL;

A church in Dalreida; it was formerly known by the name of Achadhceinn, or Achadhkind, and was built by St. Patrick, who appointed one of his disciples, St. Cathub, the son of Fergus, abbot; he died, April 6th in the year 554; we are told in M'Geoghegan's annals, that at his death this saint was 150 years old. The place is now unknown.

### ANTRIM;

From which the barony and county are named, and is variously written by ancient writers. Durtract, a disciple of St. Patrick, founded an abbey at Aondrium, or Entrumia.

493 or 496. The abbot St. Mochay died the 23d of June.

638. Cridan died at Indroim in Ulster.

642. The Bishop St. Croman died on the 6th of January.

658. St. Cumineus, bishop of A'Endrum, died on the 1st of July.

679. Died the abbot Maney.

746. Died St. Moclímarchar, bishop of Ectrumensis.

766. Died St. Failbeus, abbot of Erdamensis.

### ARDMACNASCA,

On Lough-Laoigh, Laisrean, the son of Neasca and abbot of Hy, was founder and abbot of this abbey; he died the 25th of October, about this year 650, and is patron of the place.

### BOITHBOLCAIN;

A church near Connor, founded by St. Bolcain, a disciple of St. Patrick.

### BONAMARGY;

A small monastery was built here, in the fifteenth century, for Franciscan friars of the third order. This monastery is said to have been founded by M'Donnell, whose family settled in this county in the 15th century, and were afterwards ennobled. This monastery

and its possessions were granted to the founder's family ; and the abbey became the burial place of the M'Donnells.

#### CARRICKFERGUS,

On a remarkable bay of the same name.

1232. The foundation of a monastery here, for Franciscan friars, is fixed in this year, but it is a matter of doubt who was the founder ; some say the famous Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, according to others O'Neil.

1243. This year the Earl of Ulster, and Gerald Fitzmaurice, and Richard de Burgh were interred here.

1408. Hugh M'Adam Mac Gilmore, the fell destroyer of forty sacred edifices, fled for refuge to an oratory of this church, in which he was soon after massacred by the English colony of the name of Savage. As the windows of this building had been formerly robbed of their iron bars by his sacrilegious hands, his pursuers found a ready admission to him.

1497. Neile M'Caine O'Neil reformed this friary to the order of the strict observance.

1510. This monastery was in such high repute, that a general chapter of the order was held in it this year.

At the suppression of religious houses, this monastery and its possessions were granted to Sir Edmund Fitzgerald, who assigned the same to Sir Arthur Chichester, ancestor to the Marquis of Donegall. This nobleman, who was several times lord deputy of Ireland, erected a noble castle on the site of this monastery, about the year 1610.

#### CLUAIN OR KILCLUAIN,

Was an abbey built by St. Olcan, in the early ages of christianity ; it is now, according to Colgan, a parish church near Connor.

#### CONNOR ;

A small town in the barony of Antrim, and a bishop's see united to Down.

506. The bishop Enos M'Nessa, died on the 3d of September, on which day his festival is held. Others place his death in the year 513.

The feast of St. Mainend, of Cluain-Connor, is observed on the 16th of September, but we are not informed at what time he lived.

537. Died the bishop Sugadius.

658. The Bishop St. Dima Dubh died this year, far advanced in the vale of life. His festival is held here on the 6th of January.

771. Died Anfeally, abbot of Coynre and Lynnealla.

865. Died Aidhecar, abbot of Coynre and Lynnealla, or Condoir and Lannela ; he was a bishop and a learned chronologer.

949. Died the abbot Flannagan M'Alchon ; he was abbot also of Muckamore.

1038. Died Cudenius, the professor of Condoire.

1063. Eochad, another professor, died this year.

Ancient ecclesiastical writers name it Cluain-Connor, Coinre, Condere, Cendoire, Connery, and Conry.

## DOMNACHBRUIN,

Was built by St. Patrick, in the territory of Hy-tuirtre. It is now unknown.

## DOMNACHCOINRE,

Was built by St. Patrick, in Cathrigia, or Machairedna-Morna, a territory in Dalriada. Colgan thinks it probable, that this was the church now called Kildomnach. The two Saints Conann are patrons of it. It is now unknown.

## DOMNACHCOMBUIR OR CONNOR,

Was built by St. Patrick, it seems to be a parish church in the diocese of Connor, now called Magh-combuir. It is at present unknown.

## DOMNACHFOTHAIRBE,

Was founded by St. Patrick in Hy-tuirtre. Now unknown.

## DOMNACHLIBEIR,

Was also built by St. Patrick in the same territory, and is likewise unknown.

## DOMNACHMQELAIN,

Built by the same saint in the same territory, and is also unknown.

## DOMNACHMOR,

In Magh-damhorna, in Dalreida. St. Patrick built a church here ; it is, as Father Colgan observes, either the chapel called Kildomnach, or the parish church called Rathmor.

## DOMNACHRIASCAIGH,

Was built by St. Patrick, in Hy-tuirtre ; it is now unknown.

## DOMNACHRIGHDUIN ;

Another church founded there by the same saint,—unknown.

## DOMNACHSAINRE,

Founded in the same territory by St. Patrick,—also unknown.

## DRUIMINDEICH,

In Dalreida ; this abbey owed its erection to St. Patrick, about the year 460. He placed St. Enan over it ; it is at present unknown.

## DRUIN LA CROIX,

In the diocese of Connor ; an abbey was founded here for Premonstrant or White canons ; it was a daughter of the abbey of Dryburgh, in Scotland ; see Goodburn.

## GLEANINDEACHTA ;

In the territory of Friar-conguill ; this valley still retains this name, says Father Colgan, in the diocese of Connor. St. Patrick

founded a church or abbey in that part of the glin called *Machaire-morna* or *Mudhorn*.

#### GLENARM;

A monastery was built here for Franciscan Friars of the third order, in the year 1465, by Robert Bisset, a Scotchman.—This monastery, and the lands belonging thereto, were granted to Alexander M'Donnell, ancestor to the Earls of Antrim; there are still some remains of this building in the bay of Glenarm.

#### GLUAIRE,

In the territory of Latham, in Dalriada. St. Patrick built a church here in which rests St. Molassius; this place is now unknown.

#### GOODBORN OR WOODBORN,

Not far from Carrickfergus; a priory, dedicated to the Holycross, was founded here for Premonstre or White canons; it was a daughter of the abbey of Dryburgh; probably this may be the same with *Druin la croix* before mentioned.

The Bissets, a powerful family in the neighbourhood of Athol in Scotland, being principally concerned in the murder of Patrick, Earl of Athol, were obliged, in the year 1242, to abandon their country and take shelter in this kingdom.

Alan de Galvia, Duncande Carrig, and the Bissets from Scotland, had lands given them by Henry III., some of these probably founded this priory in atonement for the murder of that Earl.

In 1326, friar Roger Outlaw, prior of the Hospital of Kilmainham, and lord chancellor of Ireland, granted a lease of certain lands to Longadel Manster, and dates the grant, "*apud abbatiam de Woddeborne*."

Gillerata M'Cowagh, the last abbot, resigned into the hands of the king's commissioners, on the 1st day of March, 1542, the 34th year of King Henry VIII.; the abbot was then seized of a certain parcel of land lying round the priory, and of the rectory of Entroia, and the tithes of sixteen townlands belonging to the rectory of Killaboy, in the Rents, the rectories of Cnolile and Cormony, in the same country, and the tithes of two townlands in the island of Magee, viz.—Ballypor magna and Ballypor parra.

#### IMLEACHCLUANN,

In the territory of Semne in Dalaradia, St. Patrick built an abbey here for St. Colman; Colgan supposes it to be the same as Kilchluana, or Kil-choemhain, in Hy-tuirtre, it is now unknown.

#### KELLS OR DISERT,

Four miles north of the town of Antrim. Killach son of Conmagius, an anchorite of Disert Killaigh, died in the year 828. A priory for regular canons was erected on the site of this ancient cell, under the invocation of the virgin Mary, before the arrival of the English in this kingdom, by O'Brian Carrog.—Murtagh

M'Annulowe was the last abbot, and in the first of February, 1542, he surrendered it, being then seized of both the cures and profits of eight townlands circumjacent to the priory, viz.—Ballytollmollan, Ballymacevanghe, Ballickveldrome, Ballyfugarke, Ballycreaghey, Ballywillie, Harvyltoye, Ballysuensuer; the impropriate rectory of Dunyen, &c., and Drumarde, in Lefraghe, the impropriate rectory of —, and Roisroilick, in the Rents, the tithes of Templemotragh, near Glenarm, and of Kilkeran, in the island of Magee.

## KILBOEDAIN,

Which was afterwards named Kiloseoba, was founded by St. Boedain, after the beginning of the sixth century; this saint quitted this church, and betook himself to the church of Moinmor, in the south of Munster, his native country; this place is now unknown.

## KILLEASFRUICBOLCAIN;

In the Rents, not far from Airthermuighe. St. Bolcain, or Olcain, a disciple of St. Patrick, built this church.

## KILGLAIS;

In Dalaradia,\* was built by St. Patrick for St. Glassian; now unknown.

## KILITRAGH,

Four miles south of Ballintoy, in the barony of Carey. St. Patrick built Cuileachtrann, and made Feachrius the bishop of it. Colgan says that it is now a parish church, and named Cuilechtra, in the territory of Cathrigia, (Cathrigia is in the Rents.)

## KILRUAIDH,

In Dalaradia, near Lough Neagh. St. Colman is the patron saint, and his festival is kept here on the 16th of October, (Killruidh, near Lisburn—Dr. Crawford.)

## LAMBEG,

Near Lisburn. M'Donnell built a small monastery here, in the 15th century, for Franciscan Friars of the third order.

## LHANNAVACH,

Or the church of the dwarf, in the diocese of Connor, was founded by St. Patrick for Daniel his disciple, who was very low in stature.—It is now a parish church.

\* Dalaradia comprehended the south and south-east parts of the county of Antrim, since called Clanebois, and all the county of Down, extending from Newry to the mountain Mis, in the barony of Antrim.



## LINN.

St. Darcrea, sister to St. Patrick, was abbess of a nunnery in Linn, a spacious plain near Carrickfergus,—now unknown.

## LINNALLY.

An ancient abbey of this name is placed by Conry expressly in this county. A. D. 771, died Anfceally, abbot of Coinre and Linnally.—861, died Aidhecar, or Egechar, abbot of the same ; he was a bishop and a celebrated chronologer.

## MASSAREENE,

Gives name to the barony ; a small monastery was founded here, in the 15th century, for Franciscan Friars of the third order, by O'Neil. On the 20th of November, 1621, it was granted to Sir Arthur Chichester, Baron of Belfast, by the name of " the Friary of Masseryne."

## MUCKAMORE.

On the river called the Six-mile Water, two miles south of Antrim, St. Colman Elo, in the year 550, built a noble monastery here, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary. This saint was afterwards made bishop of Dromore, and died on the 7th of June, or the 27th of October, A. D. 600, or 610.

A. D. 949. Flannagan M'Alchon, comorb of M'Nyssy, and of Colman Elo, that is, abbot of Connor and Muckamore, died this year.

954. Died Malbrigid, son of Redan, he was abbot of Connor and Muckamore.

1183. P ——— was prior ; he was a subscribing witness to the charter granted by Sir John de Courcy to the abbey of St. Patrick, at Down.

This priory was, on its new foundation, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Colman Elo, and was endowed, after the invasion of the English, by William Mataland, Stephen de Sandall, and Gilbert de Croft.

Inquisition, 12th November, 1st Jas. I., finds that Bryan Boy O'Mahonlon, the last prior, was seized both of the spiritualities and temporalities of eight townlands, circumjacent to the said priory, viz. Ballymoreclaire, Ballyshane, Ochyll, Ballow, Terrogrceye, Ballylaghe, and Ballyestiene ; also of the priory of Masseriene, in the townland of Ballow ; also in the townland or parish of Bellymohelaine, ——— ; also in two towlands adjoining the woods of Dumwore and Kilwood-craig, and of the same woods in the lower Clandeboy, with all the tithe in the town and lands of Carmerr, Cargrande, Duach, Salgrdan, Ballyrobarte, Killyeneghan, and Killowan in the upper Clandeboy ; and two parts of all the tithes of Magherefergan in the Rents, (*Route*), and of Kilglarne in the Ards ; (County Down ; ) also the rectory of Whitekirk, in the island of Magee, then in the tenure of Moses Hill, Esq., and of all the tithes of a quarter of land in the upper Clandeboy, in the county of Down ; and of the

said priory, with all its possessions, annual value, 53s. 8d. reprises.

On the 3rd of December, the 7th of Queen Elizabeth, 1564, a return was made that the prior and all his monks were dead.

This priory was granted to — Langford, and Sir Roger Langford was seized of it in the year 1639. The grange of Muckamore is named in the visitation book of the diocese of Connor.

## OCYMILD.

About the year 1202, William de Burgh, granted the village of Ardumur, with the church and all its appurtenances, to Richard, one of the monks of Glastonbury, to found a priory to the honour of God and the virgin Mary ; which being done the place was called Ocy-mild, and Richard was appointed the first prior. It is thus mentioned in the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, but M. Allemande changes the name to Drymild, and conjectures that it is in this county ; if Drymild be the true reading, we may with some probability suppose it to be Drumwillen, near Ballycastle.

## RACHLIN,

An island in the great Atlantic Ocean, two miles north of Fairhead point, on which St. Comgall landed with an intent to erect a Cell, but he was instantly seized by a band of thirty military men, who, holding his hands, drove him out of the island. We are not informed by whose orders the holy man was so inhospitably received and so rudely treated ; but St. Columba, who founded Derry, A.D. 546, succeeded better ; he founded a church here, and placed over it Colman, the deacon, who was the son of Roi.

A.D. 590. Lugaid Laither, was abbot, and flourished about this time. He is said by some to have been the founder.

630. St. Segene, the abbot of Hy repaired this abbey either in this year, or in 632, but in 635, according to the *Annals of Ulster* ; he is esteemed by some to have been its founder.

651. This second founder died this year.

734. Died the Bishop St. Flana ; he was son of Killach.

738. Died the abbot St. Cumineus, Hna Kierain.

743. Died the blessed Cobthach, abbot of this church.

764. The abbot Murgaile M'Ninned, died September 29th.

768. Died the abbot St. Aid ; he was son of Corbreus.

790. A fleet of Danish pirates ravaged this island with fire and sword ; the shrines and holy altars perished in the general destruction. The *Annals of Ulster* place this melancholy event in the year 794, which answers to our year 795. This was the first descent of these barbarians upon our coasts.

794. Died the blessed Feradach, son of Segineus, and abbot of this place.

848. Died the blessed Tuathal, son of Feradach, abbot of Rachlin and also of Darmagh.

973. In this year, the Danes, those cruel despoilers of this kingdom, crowned with martyrdom St. Feradach, the holy abbot of this church.

King John afterwards granted this island to Alan of Galway.

1558. The lord deputy, the Earl of Sussex, attacked the Scots, who had got possession of this island, and drove them out with a great slaughter.

Raglin is a rectory in the diocese of Connor.

#### RATHEASPUICINNIC ;

St. Patrick founded a church here, and appointed St. Vinnoc bishop of it ; it is in the territory of Huaduchain, a valley in the barony of Antrim ; there are four churches in this valley, viz. Rathmor, (which probably is Rath-easpuic-innic) Rathcabain, Ratheoc-huill, and ———. Now unknown.

#### RATHMOANE ;

Near Ballycastle, in the barony of Carey ; St. Patrick founded Rathmodhain, and placed St. Erccolus therein ; it is now, according to Colgan, a parish church in the Rents, and diocese of Connor.

#### RATHMUIGHE ;

On the sea-shore, eight miles from Dunliffia, as Colgan observes, which may probably be Dunluce. It was formerly a principal town of the Dalriodans, and an episcopal seat and monastery, but it is now reduced to a small village with a church.

The mother of St. Olcan or Bolcan, died about the year 440. After her interment, a noise was heard in the grave, which being immediately opened, the child was providentially taken out alive. St. Patrick received this infant of birth so extraordinary, baptized and educated him in this town, he was afterwards sent to France to finish his studies ; and on his return he became the first abbot and bishop of a monastery built in Rathmuighe.

St. Brugachius was appointed by St. Patrick to succeed St. Olcan ; he was surnamed the Hospitable, and his feast is held on the first of November.

A. D. 612. This abbey was destroyed by fire.

725. St. Adamnan, the bishop and abbot, died this year.

779. The abbot St. Kieran died on the 8th of October.

831. This abbey was plundered and destroyed.

960. It met with the same dreadful treatment.

#### RATHMURBUILG ;

St. Domangart, bishop of this church, which is in Dalaradia died in the year 506 ; it is now called Machaire-ratha. Probably this is Magherehill, three-miles south-west of Ballymenagh.

#### RATHSITHE ;

Was built by St. Patrick, it is now, says father Colgan, a parish church in the diocese of Connor ; now unknown.

#### TULACH ;

Was also founded by the same saint, who appointed St. Mehemus to be bishop of it. Colgan says it is now Tulachruise, and that it is a parish church in the deanery of Dalmun and diocese of Connor,

# MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

## FOR THE BOROUGH OF BELFAST,

### FROM 1613 TILL 1847.

- 1613.—Sir John Blennerhasset ; George Trevillian, Esq.  
 1639.—Sir William Wray, Bart ; George Rawdon, Esq.  
 1661.—William Knight, Esq. ; Henry Davys, Esq.  
 1695.—Hon. Charles Chichester ; James Macartney, Esq.  
 1703.—W. Crafford, Merchant ; W. Cairnes, of Dublin, Merchant.  
 1707.—William Crafford, Merchant ; Samuel Oyle, Esq.  
 1715.—Robert Moore, Esq. ; Antony Atkinson, Esq.  
 1715.—Hon. C. Moore ; G. Macartney, Esq., by another indenture.  
 1719.—Hon. John I. Chichester ; George Macartney, Esq.  
 1721.—George Macartney, Esq. ; George Macartney, jun. Esq.  
 1725.—George Macartney, Esq. ; Hon. John Chichester.  
 1727.—Hon. David John Barry ; George Macartney, Esq.  
 1745.—George Macartney, Esq. ; Hon. John Chichester.  
 1747.—George Macartney, Esq. ; William Macartney, Esq.  
 1757.—William Macartney, Esq. ; Hon. Arthur Barry.  
 1761.—Hon. John Chichester ; John Leedford, Esq.  
 1769. Hon. Henry Skeffington ; George Hamilton, Esq.  
 1776.—Hon. Henry Skeffington ; Barry Yelverton, Esq.  
 1777.—Alexander Crookshank, Esq., in room of Barry Yelverton,  
 who made his election for Carrickfergus.  
 1784.—Hon. Henry Skeffington ; Hon. Joseph Hewit.  
 1791.—Hon. Henry Skeffington ; Sir William Godfrey.  
 1797.—Rt. Hon. Lord Spencer Chichester ; G. Crookshank, Esq.  
 1798.—George Crookshank, Esq. ; Alexander Hamilton, Esq.  
 1800.—Edward May, Esq ; John Congren, jun., Esq.  
 1801.—Edward May, Esq.  
 1814.—Sir Stephen May.  
 1818.—Arthur Chichester, Esq.  
 1820.—Earl of Belfast, up till 1831,  
 1831.—Sir A. Chichester bart.  
 1832.—Sir A. Chichester bart.  
 1834.—Lord A. Chichester ; James E. Tennent, Esq.  
 1836.—James E. Tennent, Esq. ; George Dunbar, Esq.  
 1838.—James Gibson, Esq. ; Earl of Belfast.  
 1839.—James E. Tennent ; George Dunbar.  
 1842.—James E. Tennent ; William G. Johnson.  
 1843.—David R. Ross ; James E. Tennent.  
 1846.—Lord J. Chichester, in the room of J. E. Tennent, Esq.,  
 appointed Secretary to the Government of the Island of  
 Ceylon,

# SOVEREIGNS OF BELFAST,

FROM 1613 TILL 1841 ;

AND

# MAYORS OF BELFAST,

FROM 1842 TILL 1847.

1613. Thomas Vesey.  
1614. John Willoughby.  
1615. James Burr.  
1616. Same.  
1617. Carew Hart.  
1618. Same.  
1619. George Theaker.  
1620. Same.  
1621. ———  
1622. Edward Holmes.  
1623. Same.  
1624. ———  
1625. ———  
1626. Edward Holmes.  
1627. Carew Hart.  
1628. Edward Holmes.  
1629. ———  
1630. Walterhouse Crymble.  
1631. Lewis Thompson.  
1632. Robert Foster.  
1633. Thomas Brumston.  
1634. Lewis Thompson.  
1635. Henry Le Squire.  
1636. Same.  
1637. John Walker.  
1638. John Leathes.  
1639. Henry Le Squire.  
1640. John Haddock.  
1641. Thomas Harrington.  
1642. Thomas Stevenson.  
1643. Thomas Theaker.  
1644. Robert Foster.  
1645. William Leathes.  
1646. John Ash.  
1647. Hugh Doake.  
1648. Robert Foster.  
1649. George Martin.  
1650. Thomas Harrington.

1651. Same.  
1652. Thomas Warring.  
1653. Same.  
1654. Thomas Theaker.  
1655. John Leathes.  
1656. Thomas Warring.  
1657. William Leathes.  
1658. Same.  
1659. Same.  
1660. Francis Meeke.  
1661. John Ridgley.  
1662. Same.  
1663. George Macartney.  
1664. Same.  
1665. Thomas Warring.  
1666. Same.  
1667. Edward Reynetts.  
1668. George Macartney.  
1669. Same.  
1670. William Warring.  
1671. Same.  
1672. Thomas Walcot.  
1673. George Macartney.  
1674. Same.  
1675. Hugh Eccles.  
1676. George Macartney.  
1677. Same.  
1678. Same.  
1679. Same.  
1680. Same.  
1681. Francis Thelford.  
1682. Lewis Thompson.  
1683. John Hamilton.  
1684. Same.  
1685. Thomas Knox.  
1686. Robert Leathes.  
1687. Same.  
1688. Same.

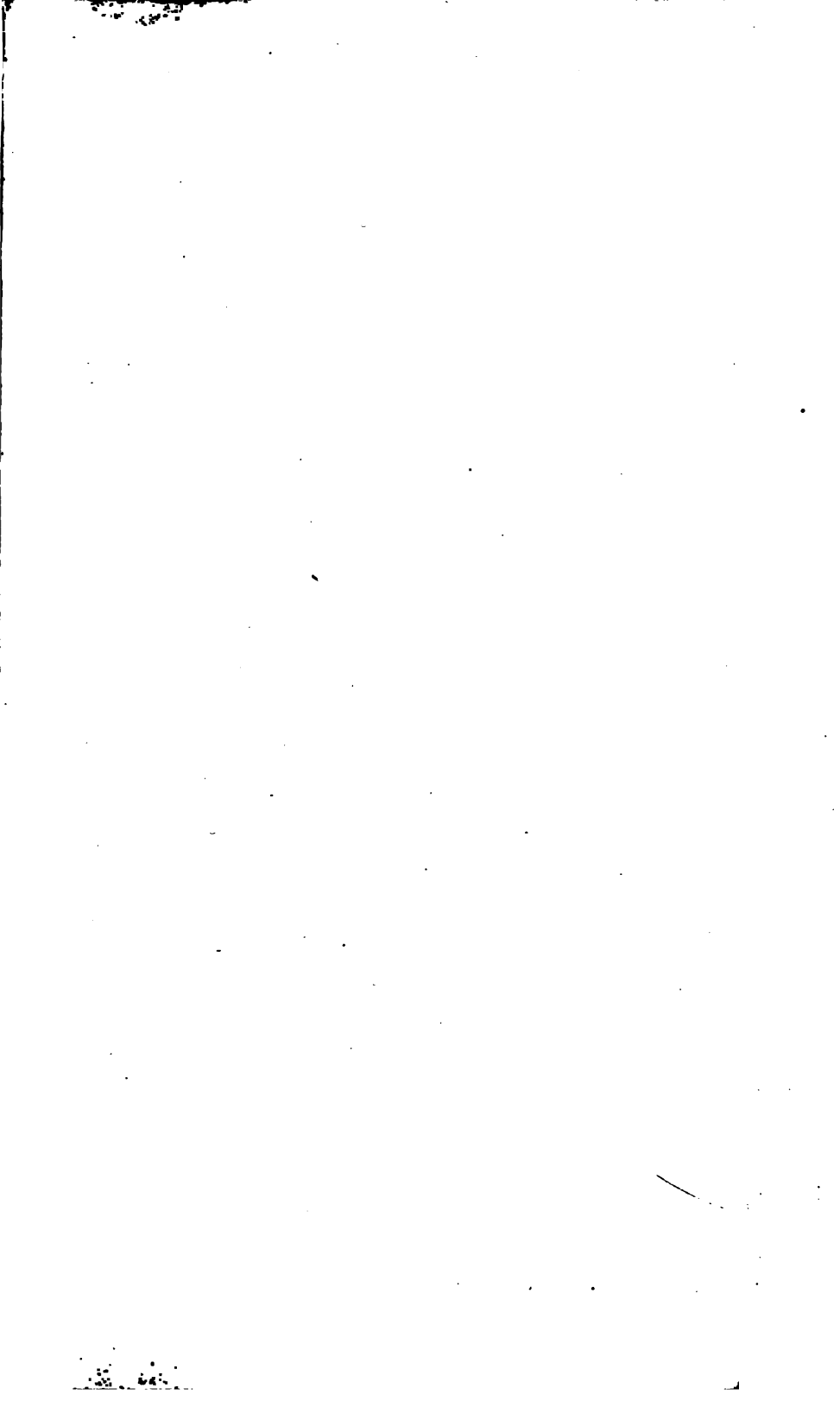
- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1689. Same.  | 1730. John Duff.          |
| 1690. Same.  | 1731. Arthur Byrzt.       |
| 1691. William Lockard.   | 1732. John Clugstone.     |
| 1692. James Macartney was appointed to the office, but removed, not being qualified. | 1733. Same.               |
|  | 1734. Robert le Byrzt.    |
|  | 1735. Same.               |
| 1693. William Crawford.  | 1736. Margetson Saunders. |
| 1694. Same.  | 1737. Same.               |
| 1695. Edward Harrison.   | 1738. Same.               |
| 1696. Lewis Thompson.  | 1739. Robert le Byrzt.    |
| 1697. Earl of Donegall, Robert Leathes, deputy.                                      | 1740. Same.               |
|  | 1741. John Duff.          |
| 1698.  | 1742. Same.               |
| 1699. David Smith.   | 1743. Robert le Byrzt.    |
| 1700. Same.  | 1744. Arthur Byrzt.       |
| 1701. George Macartney.  | 1745. Same.               |
| 1702. John Chalmers.   | 1746. Same.               |
| 1703. David Buttle.  | 1747. John Duff.          |
| 1704. George Macartney.  | 1748. Margetson Saunders. |
| 1705. Same.  | 1749. George Macartney.   |
| 1706. Same.  | 1750. Same.               |
| 1707. Same.  | 1751. Same.               |
| 1708. Same.  | 1752. Arthur Byrzt.       |
| 1709. Richard Wilson.  | 1753. John Duff.          |
| 1710. Roger Haddock.   | 1754. Margetson Saunders. |
| 1711. Same.  | 1755. Stewart Banks.      |
| 1712. Same.  | 1756. Same.               |
| 1713. Hans Hamilton.   | 1757. Arthur Byrzt.       |
| 1714. James Gurnen.  | 1758. Stewart Banks.      |
| 1715. Same.  | 1759. George Macartney.   |
| 1716. Same.  | 1760. Stephen Haron.      |
| 1717. Henry Ellis.   | 1761. James Hamilton.     |
| 1718. John Carpenter.  | 1762. Stewart Banks.      |
| 1719. Same.  | 1763. George Macartney.   |
| 1720. Henry Ellis.   | 1764. Same.               |
| 1721. Robert le Byrzt.   | 1765. Same.               |
| 1722. Henry Ellis.   | 1766. Stewart Banks.      |
| 1723. George Macartney, jun.   | 1767. George Macartney.   |
| 1724. Major George Macartney : died in office, when Nathaniel Byrzt was elected.     | 1768. Same.               |
|  | 1769. James Hamilton.     |
| 1725. Nathaniel Byrzt died in office, and James Macartney, chosen.                   | 1770. Stephen Haron.      |
|  | 1771. Stewart Banks.      |
| 1726. James Macartney.   | 1772. Shem Thomson.       |
| 1727. John Clugstone.  | 1773. James Lewis.        |
| 1728. Same.  | 1774. George Black.       |
| 1729. Thomas Banks.  | 1775. Same.               |
|  | 1776. Same.               |
|  | 1777. James Lewis.        |
|  | 1778. Stewart Banks.      |

1779. Samuel Black.  
 1780. Same.  
 1781. Same.  
 1782. George Black.  
 1783. Same.  
 1784. Samuel Black.  
 1785. George Black.  
 1786. Rev. William Bristow.  
 1787. Same.  
 1788. Same.  
 1789. Samuel Black.  
 1790. Rev. William Bristow.  
 1791. Same.  
 1792. Same.  
 1793. Same.  
 1794. Same.  
 1795. Same.  
 1796. Same.  
 1797. John Brown.  
 1798. Rev. William Bristow.  
 1799. John Brown.  
 1800. Same.  
 1801. Same.  
 1802. Arthur Chichester.  
 1803. Edward May, M. P.  
 1804. Same.  
 1805. Same.  
 1806. Same.  
 1807. Rev. Edward May.  
 1808. Same.  
 1809. Edward May, M. P.  
 1810. Same.  
 1811. Rev. Edward May.  
 1812. Thomas Verner.  
 1813. Same.

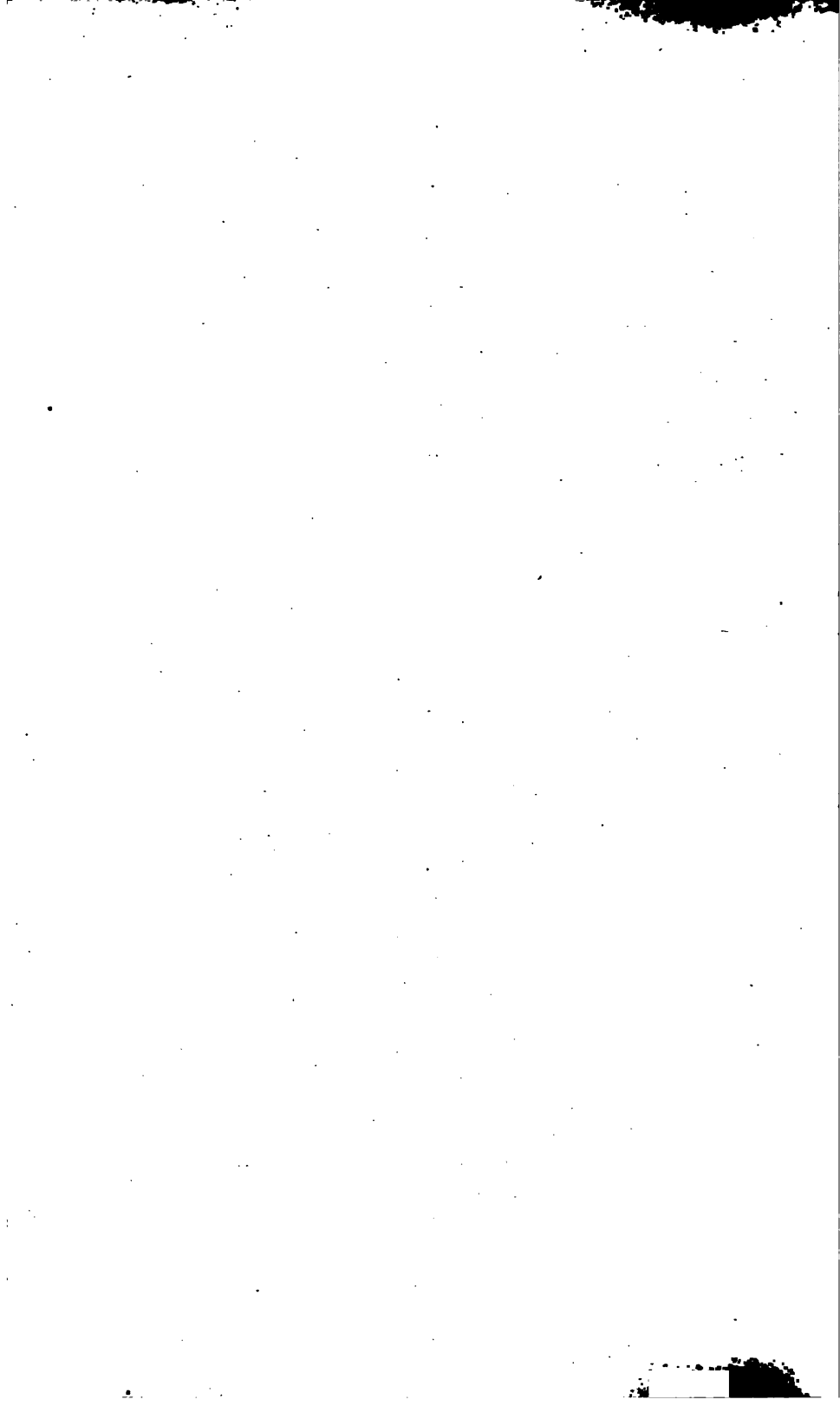


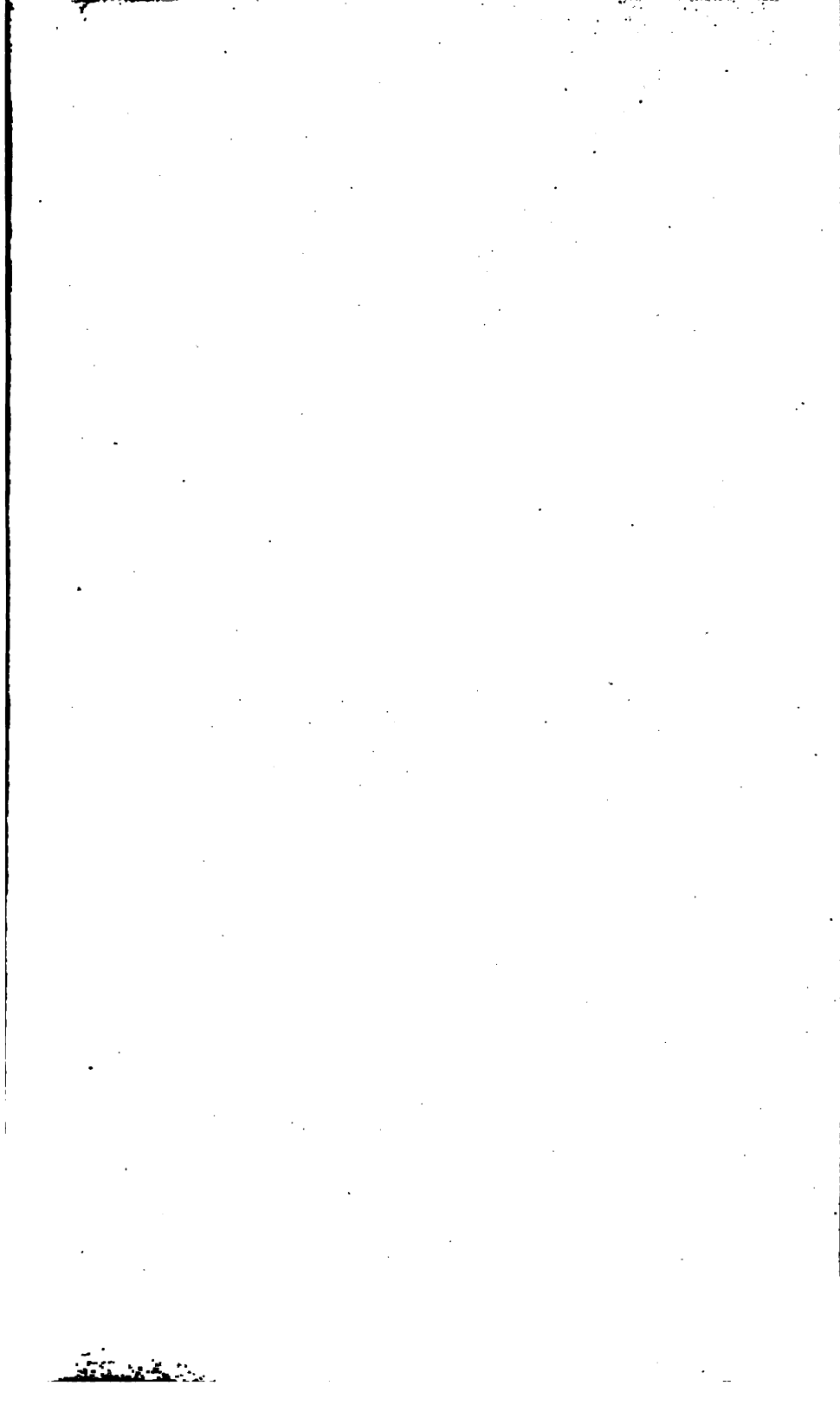
1814. Same.  
 1815. Same.  
 1816. Rev. Edward May.  
 1817. Thomas Ludford Stewart.  
 1818. Same.  
 1819. Thomas Verner.  
 1820. Same.  
 1821. Same.  
 1822. Same.  
 1823. Same.  
 1824. John Agnew.  
 1825. Same.  
 1826. Same.  
 1827. Same.  
 1828. Sir Stephen May.  
 1829. Same.  
 1830. Same.  
 1831. Same.  
 1832. Same.  
 1833. Same.  
 1834. Same.  
 1835. John Agnew.  
 1836. Same.  
 1837. Same.  
 1838. Same.  
 1839. Same.  
 1840. Same.  
 1841. Thomas Verner, jun.  
 1842. Same.  
 MAYÓRS.  
 1843. George Dunbar.  
 1844. John Clarke.  
 1845. Andrew Mulholland.  
 1846. John Kane.  
 1847. John Harrison.

✓











X

